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ABSTRACT

This paper presents data from a 2002 survey of Hispanic American adults. Overall, the Hispanic population held an array of attitudes, values, and beliefs that were distinct from those of non-Hispanic whites and blacks. However, there was no single, homogeneous Latino opinion. A diversity of views existed among Latinos, with differences between foreign born and native born and between English dominant and Spanish dominant most notable. Immigrants held a wide range of views on matters like gender roles, abortion, and homosexuality that were somewhat more conservative than those of non-Hispanic Whites. Native-born Latinos, including children of immigrants, expressed attitudes that were more squarely within the range of views voiced by non-Hispanics. Still, some elements of social conservatism (particularly a strong attachment to family) were evident among Latinos who predominantly spoke English and were generations removed from the immigrant experience. Immigration was important in shaping Latinos' sense of social identity. Respondents overwhelmingly felt that discrimination against Latinos was a problem in both general and specific settings. Most noted that discrimination by Hispanics against other Hispanics was a problem. Latinos reported a weaker financial situation than whites and were more likely than whites or blacks to report being without health insurance. (SM)

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THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

2002 NATIONAL SURVEY OF LATINOS

Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS | DECEMBER 2002

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2002 National Survey of Latinos

PEW HISPANIC CENTER/KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

DECEMBER 2002

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Executive Summary

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The Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation 2002 *National Survey of Latinos* comprehensively explores the attitudes and experiences of Hispanics on a wide variety of topics. This survey was designed to capture the diversity of the Latino population by including almost 3,000 Hispanics from various backgrounds and groups so that in addition to describing Latinos overall, comparisons can be made among key Hispanic subgroups as well.

We find that as a whole, the Hispanic population of the United States holds an array of attitudes, values and beliefs that are distinct from those of non-Hispanic whites and African Americans. Even Latinos who trace their ancestry in the United States back for several generations express views that distinguish them from the non-Hispanic native-born population.

However, there is no single, homogeneous Latino opinion. A diversity of views exists among Latinos, and the differences between the foreign born, regardless of their country of origin, and the native born and those between the English dominant and the Spanish dominant are most notable. In fact, the survey presents a multi-faceted representation of a population undergoing rapid change due to immigration that includes individuals at many different stages in the process of assimilation to English and American ways. The survey, however, renders a portrait of a people at a given moment in time—the late spring of 2002—rather than serving as a prediction for a certain future. Nonetheless, the survey results help resolve a sometimes argumentative though frequently-asked question: Are Latino newcomers undergoing the melting pot experience, or are they and their offspring maintaining their native cultures and becoming an ethnic group that is different from the mainstream? The answer is: Both, to some extent.

For example, an examination of Latinos' attitudes on social issues shows that immigrants hold a range of views on matters like gender roles, abortion and homosexuality that are somewhat more conservative than those of most non-Hispanic whites. Meanwhile native-born Latinos, including the children of immigrants, express attitudes that are more squarely within the range of views voiced by non-Hispanics. Nonetheless, some elements of this social conservatism and, in particular, a strong attachment to family is evident among Latinos who predominantly speak English and are generations removed from the immigrant experience.

Immigration is also an important factor in shaping Latinos' sense of their social identity. The survey reveals a robust attachment to countries of origin, and while this attachment is naturally strongest among the foreign born, it also extends to their U.S-born children and even somewhat among Hispanics whose families are long-time U.S. residents. Social identity for Latinos, however, is much more complex and fluid than simply a connection to an ancestral homeland. Native-born Latinos also use the term "American" to describe themselves more than terms like "Mexican" or "Cuban." Use of the terms "Latino" or "Hispanic," which encompass all national origin groups, add another crosscurrent. Respondents use these broader terms to distinguish themselves from non-Hispanics, but in large numbers they also say that Latinos of different countries of origin share no common culture.

The survey also sheds considerable light on the experiences that Latinos have in the United States. Focusing particularly on experiences with discrimination, their economic and financial situations and experiences with the health care system, the survey finds a diversity of experiences largely reflective in differences between native and foreign born and differences between English and Spanish dominant.

Overall, the findings suggest the need for new ways of thinking about the Hispanic population in this country. It is neither monolithic nor a hodgepodge of distinct national origin groups. Rather, Latinos share a range of attitudes and experiences that set them apart from the non-Hispanic population. Yet this common culture embraces a diversity of views that is most evident in the contrasts between immigrants and the native born. The survey argues for a more dynamic approach in regard to Latinos because this is a population undergoing constant change due to immigration. Regardless of nativity or country of origin, Hispanics who reside in the United States are engaging the English language and American ways to various degrees. Yet, simultaneously, newly arrived immigrants are bringing new energy to Spanish and to attitudes shaped in Latin America. In interpreting the survey results it is important to keep in mind that these two processes—assimilation and immigration—are taking place side-by-side in Latino communities, often within a single family.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

Identity:

- When asked whether they ***ever*** use certain terms to describe themselves, a large majority of Latinos (88%) indicate that they ever identify themselves by the country where they or their parents or ancestors were born, for example as a "Mexican" or "Cuban." They are almost as likely (81%) to ever use "Latino or Hispanic." By contrast, they are much less likely to ever use the term "American" (53%).

- When asked which terms they would use ***first*** to describe themselves, a little more than half (54%) indicate that they primarily identify themselves in terms of their or their parents' country of origin; about one in four (24%) chooses "Latino" or "Hispanic," and about one in five (21%) chooses "American."

- The primary terms Latinos use to identify themselves differ dramatically according to how many generations an individual's family has been living in the United States. Country of origin was cited as the first or only term used for self-identification by more than two-thirds (68%) of foreign-born Latinos. Among those who were born in the United States of immigrant parents (the second generation), almost equal shares identified themselves primarily either by their parents' countries of origin (38%) or as American (35%). Over half (57%) of Latinos with U.S.-born parents (the third generation and beyond) identify themselves first and foremost as an American.

- When asked about racial identity, Hispanics indicate that they do not feel that they fit into one of the racial categories typically used by the U.S. government, such as white, African American, or Asian. Rather, the majority (56%) either volunteered their race as Latino/Hispanic (47%) or indicated that they would prefer to identify their race as "Latino" or "Hispanic" (9%).

- Hispanics seem to see themselves more as having separate and distinct cultures based on country of origin rather than sharing a single culture as Hispanics or Latinos, but they are more divided in their views on whether or not Latinos are working together politically.

Assimilation:

How do Latinos view the United States?

- When comparing the United States to the countries where they or their ancestors were born, Latinos overall are fairly positive and optimistic. In particular, they feel very strongly that the United States offers more opportunities to get ahead and that Hispanic children growing up in the United States will have more opportunities in employment and education than they themselves had. On the other hand, Hispanics express somewhat less positive and more mixed views on the state of moral values and the strength of family ties in the United States. Nonetheless, there seems to be some confidence that Latinos can pass on the values that they deem important, and a majority maintains that Hispanic children growing up in the United States will stay close to their families.

- Hispanics, particularly those who are born outside the United States and those who predominantly speak Spanish, believe that one must do what is best for oneself rather than what is best for others to be successful in the United States. Whites and African Americans disagree that this type of behavior is necessary for success. On the other hand, Hispanics do not feel that to be successful you must work long hours at the expense of your personal life, whereas almost half of whites feel this is the case. Latino viewpoints on these issues, however, differ as Latinos who are likely to be the most assimilated, such as those who are native born and English dominant, are more likely than those who are foreign born and Spanish dominant to agree with the views of white Americans on these issues.

Assimilating to the United States: Behavior, Values, Religion and Views on Government

- Hispanics, particularly those who are Spanish speakers, feel very strongly that Hispanics must learn English in order to be successful in the United States.

- Spanish remains the dominant language in the adult Hispanic population. English, however, clearly gains ground even within immigrant households. The second generation—the U.S.-born children of immigrants—predominantly speak English or are bilingual. Indeed, Hispanic parents, even those who are immigrants, report that English is the language their children generally use when speaking to their friends.

- When it comes to social values, Latinos have social values that are somewhat more conservative than whites, but that are often similar to those of African Americans.

- Latinos who were born outside of the United States tend to be more socially conservative than Latinos who are native born, though this does depend to some extent on the respondent's age when he or she immigrated to the United States. Differences in social views are even more pronounced between Hispanics who speak Spanish predominantly and those who predominantly speak English. Some differences also exist based on country of origin, with Mexicans and Central Americans tending to be slightly more socially conservative than Latinos from other countries.

- Some of these differences in values may be explained by religion. Hispanics overall describe themselves as very religious with a majority identifying themselves as Roman Catholic. Hispanics who say they have no religion express views that tend to be less socially conservative and more similar to those of whites. Nonetheless, religion does not explain all of the differences in social values between Hispanics and whites, as both white Catholics and whites who say they have no religion tend to be less conservative on social issues than their Hispanic counterparts.

- Hispanics express views that emphasize the importance of family ties, and they have somewhat more conservative views on gender roles than whites.

- Hispanics also have a generally more favorable opinion of government than do whites or African Americans.

- Finally, one belief that does differ strikingly between immigrants and native-born Latinos is fatalism, i.e., the belief that it does not do any good to plan for the future because one does not have control over destiny. Foreign-born Latinos, especially those who immigrated after the age of 10, and those who speak Spanish predominantly tend to agree that fate determines the future. By contrast, those born in the United States, those who are foreign born but who immigrated to the United States when they were age 10 or younger, and those who predominantly speak English generally do not agree that this is the case.

- Overall, Latinos who are more assimilated, that is, those who primarily speak English and those whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations, tend to have social values as well as a lack of fatalism that are more characteristic of mainstream American views than are the views of Latino immigrants. However, on issues such as the importance of family and the size of government, Latinos, even after multiple generations in the United States, express a more distinct Latino perspective.

Experiences with and Views about Discrimination:

- Latinos overwhelmingly say that discrimination against Latinos is a problem both in general and in specific settings such as schools and the workplace.

- An overwhelming majority (83%) of Hispanics also report that discrimination by Hispanics against other Hispanics is a problem, and almost half (47%) feel that this is a major problem. Latinos are most likely to attribute this type of discrimination to disparities in income and education, though a substantial number also feel that Latinos discriminate against other Latinos because they or their parents or ancestors are from a different country of origin.

- When asked about their personal experience with discrimination, a smaller, though still substantial number (31%) of Hispanics report that they or someone close to them has suffered discrimination in the last five years because of their racial or ethnic background. About one in seven (14%) Latinos report personally experiencing employment-related discrimination, including not being hired for a job or not promoted because of their race or ethnicity.

- In addition to those who say they or someone close to them has experienced discrimination, many Hispanics report experiencing more subtle forms of unfair treatment because of their race or ethnicity such as being treated with less respect than others (45%), receiving poorer service than others (41%), and being insulted or called names (30%).

- When Hispanics were asked to explain why they believe they have been discriminated against or treated unfairly in the past, they are most likely to say that it was due to the language they speak (35%), though many also attribute it to their physical appearance (24%), or feel that it was a result of both the way they look and the language they speak (20%).

Economic and Financial Experiences:

- Overall, Latinos report a weaker financial situation than do whites. They report having lower household incomes, they are less likely to own the home they live in, and they are more likely to report having had financial difficulties in the past year. Latinos are also less likely than whites to use traditional financial resources such as bank accounts and credit cards. Furthermore, lower income Latinos report having more severe financial hardships than whites in the same income bracket. Economically, Latinos are much more similar to African Americans, who report having comparable incomes and financial difficulties.

- This does not mean that all Latinos are struggling financially. Latinos who were born in the United States and those who speak English or are bilingual are much more likely to report having higher household incomes and are less likely to report experiencing financial hardships than those Latinos who were born outside of the United States or who primarily speak Spanish.

- Although Latinos report being somewhat ambivalent about their current financial situation, they tend to be more optimistic than whites or African Americans. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of Latinos, regardless of their place of birth or primary language, are confident that Latino children growing up in the United States will have better jobs and make more money than they do.

Health Care Experiences:

- As has been documented before, Latinos (35%) are more likely than whites (14%) or African Americans (21%) to report being without health insurance.

- However, experience with being uninsured differs substantially among Latinos, with those who are foreign born, or Spanish dominant more likely to report being uninsured than their counterparts. Latinos who trace their roots to Central or South America, Mexico, or El Salvador are more likely to say they are uninsured than are those from Puerto Rico, Cuba or the Dominican Republic.

- A substantial minority of Latinos report additional health care challenges such as problems paying medical bills (22%), delaying seeking care because of costs (20%) or getting needed health care services (15%). Furthermore, some Latinos report having problems communicating with health care providers due to language barriers (29%) or having difficultly getting care due to their race and ethnic background (18%). Not surprisingly, these experiences are more common among those who are Spanish dominant and among those who were born outside the United States.

Section 1: Introduction and Description of Adult Latinos

In the 2000 Census, some 35,306,000 persons living in the United States identified themselves as being Hispanics. That represented a 142% increase over the 1980 Census count, and means that Latinos now make up nearly 13% of the U.S. population overall. Despite their large and growing numbers, the complexities of views and experiences within the Hispanic population remain largely unexplored. Great diversity within this population exists due to several factors: Latinos come from many different countries of origin. They have different degrees of language assimilation. And, the population is comprised of recent immigrants, the children of immigrants, and those whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations. While various surveys of Latino views and experiences have been conducted, few projects have been able to examine this population in depth to fully understand how this diversity impacts views, beliefs and experiences.

The Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation 2002 National Survey of Latinos is designed to comprehensively explore the attitudes and experiences of Latinos on a wide variety of topics. It grows from a similar effort conducted in 1999 by the Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Washington Post*, and Harvard University. Building upon that earlier work, this survey was designed to capture the diversity of the Latino population. The survey sample was designed to include enough Hispanics from various backgrounds and national origin groups so that in addition to describing Latinos overall, comparisons also can be made among segments of the Hispanic population.

This first section describes the surveyed adult Hispanic population, highlighting key areas of demographic differences among subgroups that are important to keep in mind when exploring how views and experiences differ among the groups. It also describes and defines the subgroups we then refer to throughout the rest of the report. The next sections of this report summarize the key findings for Latinos views on identity (Section 2) and assimilation (Section 3), and their experiences with discrimination (Section 4), economics and finances (Section 5), and the health care system (Section 6).

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DESCRIPTION OF ADULT LATINOS

The following is a description of the demographics of the Latino sample for this study. The sample was drawn and weighted to be representative of all adult Hispanics in the United States today. See the methodology for more details on the sampling design.

When assessing the results of the survey for this report, some decisions needed to be made as to which sub-groups to use for analysis and how to define these groups. Following is a list of the key groups used throughout the report and how we defined them. The tables below show the percentage of Latinos who fall into each group.

In addition, we have included information about important differences among these sub-groups. When looking at the information highlighted in this report, it is helpful and important to keep in mind these differences and the role they might play in influencing the attitudes, beliefs, and experiences of each group.

LATINO/AFRICAN AMERICAN/WHITE

Definition

The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably throughout the report. Respondents self-identified as Latino/Hispanic based on a question that asked, "Are you, yourself of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, Caribbean or some other Latin American background?" Based on this question, we identified 2929 Latinos for the survey.

The terms "African American" and "white" are used throughout the report to refer to non-Latino African Americans and whites–in other words, those respondents who do not self-identify as being of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent. The sample for this survey included 171 African Americans, and 1008 whites.

Additional Key Demographic Differences

Income

Latinos and African Americans report having similar household incomes, which tend to be lower than household incomes reported by whites. (Table 1.1)

Half of all Latinos report having an annual household income under $30,000, 23% report having a household income between $30,000 and below $50,000, 17% report making over $50,000, and just over one in ten (11%) did not know their annual household income.

Table 1.1: Household Income by Race/Ethnicity

	Latinos	Whites	African Americans
HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Less than $30,000	50%	29%	44%
$30,000 – < $50,000	23	27	30
$50,000 +	17	42	22
Don't know	11	3	4

FOREIGN-BORN LATINOS/NATIVE-BORN LATINOS

Definition

"Foreign-born Latinos," who are also referred to in this report as "those born outside of the United States," are those who were born outside of the fifty states as well as those who were born on the island of Puerto Rico, a commonwealth associated with the United States. Although individuals born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birthright, they were included among the foreign-born because, like immigrants from Latin America, they were born into a Spanish-dominant culture and because on many points their attitudes, views and beliefs are much closer to Hispanics born abroad than to Latinos born in the fifty-states, even those who identify themselves as being of Puerto Rican origins.

Native-born Latinos are those who say they were born in the United States. These respondents are also referred to as "U.S.-born Latinos."

Latinos in the United States are more likely to be foreign born (63%) than native born (37%).

Additional Key Demographic Differences

Primary Language

As might be expected, native-born Latinos are much more likely than foreign-born Latinos to speak English as their primary language (61% vs. 4%) or to be bilingual (35% vs. 24%), while foreign-born Latinos are much more likely than native-born Latinos to be Spanish dominant (72% vs. 4%). (Table 1.2)

Table 1.2: Primary Language, by Foreign/Native-Born Latinos

	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
English-Dominant	4%	61%
Bilingual	24	35
Spanish-Dominant	72	4

Education

Over half (55%) of foreign-born Latinos have less than a high school education compared to fewer than a quarter (23%) of native-born Latinos. Native-born Latinos are more likely than foreign-born Latinos to have completed high school (35% vs. 29%), have some college (29% vs. 9%), or to have graduated from college or received a degree after college (13% vs. 7%). (Table 1.3)

Table 1.3: Education, by Foreign/Native-Born Latinos

	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
Less than High School	55%	23%
High School Graduate	29	35
Some College	9	29
College Graduate or More	7	13

Household Income and Occupation

Foreign-born Hispanics generally live in households with lower incomes than those who are native born. The majority (57%) of foreign-born Latinos report making less than $30,000 a year, while the majority (53%) of native-born Latinos report making more than $30,000 a year.

Employed foreign-born Hispanics are also more likely to report being in blue-collar jobs (65%) than those who are native born (28%). (Table 1.4)

Table 1.4: Household Income and Occupation, by Foreign/Native-Born Latinos

	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
Less than $30,000	57%	37%
$30,000 – < $50,000	20	28
$50,000 +	11	27
Don't know	12	8
OCCUPATION		
White Collar (Net)	31	69
Blue Collar (Net)	65	28
Other	3	3

AGE AT IMMIGRATION

Definition

Respondents who were born outside of the United States were asked their age at the time they immigrated to the United States (Puerto Ricans born on the island were not asked this question and are not included in these groups). Based on their responses they were categorized into four groups: those who arrived when they were age 10 or younger, ages 11-17, ages 18-25, and those who arrived when they were age 26 or older.

Foreign-born Latinos are more likely to report having immigrated to the United States at an older age. (Table 1.5)

Table 1.5: Age at Immigration to the United States Among Latinos

	Percent of Latino Adults
10 and younger	10%
11-17	17
18-25	37
26+	34
Don't know/Refused	2

Additional Key Demographic Differences

Primary Language

Those who arrived when they were very young, in this case age 10 or younger, may have experiences more similar to Hispanics who were born in the United States than to others who are foreign-born. In particular, foreign-born Hispanics who arrive at a young age are much more likely to speak English as adults and will have received a majority of their education from American schools. In contrast, foreign-born Hispanics who arrived when they were older, particularly those who arrived when they are already into adulthood, in this case age 26 and older, are more likely to be Spanish dominant than those who arrived when they were younger. (Table 1.6)

Table 1.6: Primary Language Among Foreign-Born Latinos, by Age at Immigration to the United States

	Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	10 years or younger	Ages 11-17	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
English-Dominant	18%	4%	1%	2%
Bilingual	70	31	15	10
Spanish-Dominant	11	66	84	89

Income

Foreign-born Hispanics who immigrated to the United States at a younger age are also more likely to report being in households with a higher annual income than are those who came when they were older. The majority of foreign-born Latinos who arrived when they were ages 11 or older indicate that they earn less than $30,000 a year, while a majority of those who arrived when they were age 10 or younger indicate that they earn over $30,000. (Table 1.7)

GENERATION

Definition

First generation Latinos are those who were born outside of the United States, including those born in Puerto Rico. This group is the same as the foreign-born Latinos defined above. The second generation is made up of those who were born in the United States and whose parents were foreign born. The group labeled "3rd generation or higher" includes anyone whose parents were born in the United States.

The majority of Latinos (63%) indicated that they were first generation, including 5% who said they were born in Puerto Rico. About one in five (19%) indicates they are second generation in the United States, and 17% indicate they are third generation or higher. (Table 1.8)

Table 1.7: Income Among Foreign-Born Latinos, by Age at Immigration to the United States

	Age at Immigration to the U.S. Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	10 years or younger	Ages 11-17	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Less than $30,000	43%	54%	61%	62%
$30,000 – < $50,000	32	19	21	15
$50,000+	23	16	9	4
Don't know/Refused	2	11	9	19

Table 1.8: Generation in the United States Among Latinos

	Percent of Latino Adults
1st Generation	63%
2nd Generation	19
3rd Generation and Higher	17

Additional Key Demographic Differences

Primary Language

As noted above, a large majority (72%) of first generation or foreign-born Latinos are Spanish dominant; about one in four (24%) is bilingual while only 4% are English dominant. In contrast, second generation Latinos are mostly divided between those who are English dominant (46%) and those who are bilingual (47%). Third generation or higher Hispanics are largely English dominant (78%). While a few Hispanics whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations are bilingual (22%), none indicate that they are Spanish dominant. (Table 1.9)

Table 1.9: Primary Language Among Latinos, by Generation in the United States

	Generation in the United States		
	1st Generation	2nd Generation	3rd Generation and Higher
English-Dominant	4%	46%	78%
Bilingual	24	47	22
Spanish-Dominant	72	7	-

PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Definition

Respondents were asked a series of four questions about their language ability. They were asked about their ability to carry on a conversation in Spanish and to carry on a conversation in English ("Would you say you can carry on a conversation in Spanish/English, both understanding and speaking,-very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?") and questions about their ability to read in English and in Spanish ("Would you say you can read a newspaper or book in Spanish/English-very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?"). Based on their answers to these four questions, respondents were divided into three language groups: English dominant, bilingual, and Spanish dominant. Using these divisions, almost half (47%) of Hispanics are categorized as "Spanish dominant." The remaining half of Latinos split between those who are English dominant (25%) and those who are bilingual (28%). (Table 1.10)

Throughout the report English-dominant Latinos are also referred to as those "who predominantly speak English" and Spanish-dominant Latinos are also referred to as those "who predominantly speak Spanish." This wording is used for brevity. Please note, however, that the variables used to establish language dominance included both reading and speaking ability.

Table 1.10: Primary Language Among Latinos

	Percent of Latino Adults
English-Dominant	25%
Bilingual	28
Spanish-Dominant	47

Additional Key Demographic Differences

Income

Spanish-dominant Latinos report having lower incomes than those who are bilingual or those who are English dominant. There are not significant differences in reported income between bilingual and English-dominant Latinos.

The majority (65%) of Spanish-dominant Latinos report earning less than $30,000 a year while those who are bilingual or English dominant are more likely to report earning over $30,000 a year, and particularly more likely to report annual incomes of $50,000 or more a year.

Employed Spanish-dominant Latinos are also more likely to report being in blue-collar jobs (74%) than are bilingual (35%) or English-dominant Latinos (31%). (Table 1.11)

Table 1.11: Household Income Among Latinos, by Primary Language

	Among Latinos		
	Spanish-Dominant	**Bilingual**	**English-Dominant**
HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Less than $30,000	65%	37%	35%
$30,000 – < $50,000	16	31	29
$50,000+	4	26	29
Don't know	15	6	7
OCCUPATION			
White Collar (Net)	23	61	66
Blue Collar (Net)	74	35	31
Other	3	3	3

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Definition

"Country of origin" refers to the country or region where the respondent or the respondent's parents or ancestors were born. Respondents were asked a series of questions to determine their "country of origin." Respondents were first asked: "Were you born in the United States, the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?" Those who said they were born in "another country" were asked "In what country were you born?" Those who were born in the United States were asked "What country did your parents, grandparents or ancestors come from?" Respondents who named more than one country were then asked "Which country do you identify with more?"

Based on these questions, Latinos were placed in a specific "country of origin group." At various places throughout the report findings are reported for Latinos "from" a particular country or region. Please note that these groups include not only those who were actually born in that country, but all of those who trace their roots to that country.

The specific country groups with enough respondents to assess separately include Mexican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran and Colombian, and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In addition, results are given for "Total Central Americans" which includes Salvadorans and all other respondents who indicated they were from a Central American country, and for "Total South Americans" which includes Colombians and respondents who indicated they were from a South American Country. Latinos who indicated any other country or region as their country of origin fall into the category "All Other." (Table 1.12)

Salvadorans largely dominate the group "Total Central Americans." This group also includes Latinos from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Costa Rica. (Table 1.13)

Similarly, Colombians dominate the "Total South American" group, which also includes Hispanics from many other South American countries. (Table 1.14)

The category "all other" is a group made up of Latinos from countries that do not have particularly large populations in the United States. This group is dominated by those who are of Spanish descent, but also includes Latinos who say they or their ancestors are from, for example, the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean islands. (Table 1.15)

Table 1.12: Country or Place of Origin Among Latinos

	Percent of Latino Adults
Mexico	64%
Puerto Rico	9
Central America (Total)	7
South America (Total)	5
Cuba	5
Dominican Republic	5
El Salvador	4
Colombia	3
All Other	6

Table 1.13: Country of Origin Among Latinos from Central America

	Percent of Total Central Americans
El Salvador	65%
Guatemala	14
Honduras	10
Nicaragua	6
Panama	4
Costa Rica	1

Table 1.14: Country of Origin Among Latinos from South America

	Percent of Total South Americans
Colombia	58%
Ecuador	11
Argentina	8
Peru	7
Brazil	6
Chile	4
Guyana	3
Venezuela	2
Bolivia	1
Uruguay	1

Table 1.15: Country of Origin Among Latinos from "Other" Countries

	Percent of "All Other"
Spain	47%
USA	16
Germany	4
Portugal	3
Jamaica	3
Trinidad/Caribbean Islands	2
Italy	1
Other	6
Don't know/Refused	17

Additional Key Demographic Differences

Foreign-Born/Native-Born

The country of origin groups vary a great deal in terms of the percentage of Latinos in each group who are foreign born versus those who are native born. Four country of origin groups and two regions are highly dominated by Hispanics who were born outside of the United States. Colombians (83%), Dominicans (85%), Salvadorans (91%), Total South Americans (85%), and Total Central Americans (92%). The Cuban country of origin group is also heavily foreign born (78%), though it includes almost one in five (22%) native-born Hispanics.

By contrast, the Mexican and Puerto Rican country of origin groups are more evenly split between those who are foreign born and those who are native born.

The "All Other" group of respondents is the only group that is dominated by Hispanics who were born in the United States. (Table 1.16)

Table 1.16: Foreign/Native-Born Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Foreign-Born	62%	57%	78%	92%	85%	91%	85%	83%	12%
Native-Born	38	43	22	8	15	9	15	17	88

Primary Language

Hispanics associated with different countries of origin have differences in the primary language they speak. Hispanics from "other" countries are much more likely than other groups to be English dominant. Puerto Ricans also stand out as being much more likely than other groups to speak English predominantly or to be bilingual.

In contrast, Latinos from Central America, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic are more likely than Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Hispanics from "other" countries to be Spanish dominant. (Table 1.17)

Table 1.17: Dominant Language Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
English-Dominant	23%	39%	17%	10%	12%	12%	6%	12%	70%
Bilingual	26	40	30	25	34	25	34	30	27
Spanish-Dominant	51	21	53	65	54	63	61	58	3

Section 2: Identity

The terms people use to describe themselves are an important measure of how they see themselves and of how they relate to the society they inhabit. Terms such as white, African American, Hispanic or Latino are especially important in the United States where individuals are routinely categorized into racial and ethnic groups as a matter of social convention and government policy. Among the various terms Latinos have available to describe themselves a specific country of origin is generally preferred while the broader terms Latino or Hispanic are also widely cited. Finally, a great many Latinos refuse to place themselves in the standard U.S. racial categories based primarily on skin color.

In this survey Hispanics demonstrate a very strong association with their countries of origin—identifying themselves as "Mexicans," "Cubans" etc.— whether it be their birthplace or their parents' or a land that ancestors hailed from generations ago. In most cases that association is stronger than an identity as "Americans." While Latinos who were born in the United States are more likely to describe themselves as American than as anything else, it is only among Latinos whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations and among those who say English is their primary language that a majority of respondents select the term "American" as their primary identification.

Furthermore, this tie to home country is much more salient than any pan-ethnic or "Latino/Hispanic" identity. Hispanics are not very likely to identify themselves first and foremost as "Latinos" or "Hispanics." Moreover, they indicate very clearly that they believe Latinos of different countries of origin have separate and distinct cultures rather than one unified Hispanic/Latino culture.

When asked about racial identity, Hispanics indicate that they do not feel that they fit into one of the racial categories typically used by the U.S. government, such as white, African American, or Asian. Rather, the majority indicates that they would prefer to identify their race as "Latino" or "Hispanic."

This may seem somewhat contradictory—a reluctance to self-identify as a "Latino" or "Hispanic" or to acknowledge a unified Latino culture and yet a desire to identify racially as a Latino or Hispanic. These two attitudes, however, are not necessarily in conflict. What Latinos seem to be indicating is that it is important to them that they be considered a distinct group from non-Hispanic whites and African Americans. And, at the same time, they acknowledge that there is considerable diversity within the Latino population as well.

Nonetheless, as will be shown in later chapters of this report, Hispanics of different national origins share very similar values and attitudes, with a few notable exceptions. Thus, while country of origin is important to the ways that Hispanics identify themselves and distinguish themselves from other Latinos, it is not always a characteristic that defines, or is even very helpful in understanding, the diverse views held by the Latino population. Differing attitudes on matters such as the legality of abortion or what traits it takes to get ahead in the United States are better explained by factors such as whether respondents are immigrants or U.S.-born, the age at which they immigrated to the United States if they are foreign born and whether their primary language is English or Spanish.

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THE TERMS LATINOS CHOOSE TO DESCRIBE THEMSELVES

When asked whether they ever use certain terms to describe themselves, a large majority of Latinos indicate that they are very likely to identify themselves by the country where they or their parents or ancestors were born, for example as a "Mexican" or "Cuban." They are almost as likely to use "Latino or Hispanic." By contrast, they are much less likely to use the term "American," and indeed nearly half replied that they never describe themselves that way. (Table 2.1)

- When asked if they *ever* describe themselves in terms of a country of origin, (for example as a "Colombian" or "Puerto Rican,") a very large number of Latinos (88%) say that they do.
    - Majorities of all groups of Latinos indicate that they use country of origin to identify themselves; though some differences do exist in terms of how likely respondents are to say that they describe themselves this way. Foreign-born are more likely than native-born Hispanics (95% vs. 74%), and those whose parents are immigrants (second generation) are more likely than those whose parents are U.S.-born (the third generation and beyond) to say they ever use country of origin to describe themselves (82% vs. 66%). Similarly, those who are Spanish dominant are more likely than bilingual or English-dominant Hispanics to identify by country of origin (96% vs. 86%, 74%). Among the foreign born, the age at immigration does not seem to influence whether or not Latinos describe themselves by country of origin. Finally, those who are less educated and those who have lower incomes are more likely than those who are more educated and those who earn higher incomes to indicate that they describe themselves this way. (Table 2.2)
- Only 12% say they do not *ever* use this term to describe themselves. Of those who never use country of origin to describe themselves, 88% are citizens of the United States, 78% were born in the United States, 61% are Mexican, 54% indicate that English is their primary language, 32% are bilingual, and 14% indicate that Spanish is their dominant language.
- A similarly large majority of Latinos (81%) indicate that they ever use the terms "Latino" or "Hispanic" to identify themselves.
    - As with country of origin, foreign-born are more likely than native-born Hispanics to use these terms (85% vs. 74%), as are Spanish-dominant (87%) and bilingual (84%) Latinos compared to English-dominant Latinos (68%). Those who are less educated are also more likely than those who are more educated to use these terms to describe themselves. (Table 2.1 and Table 2.2.)
    - A large majority of respondents from every country and region also indicate that they use these terms to identify themselves, though again respondents from "other" countries (66%) are less likely than other groups to say they use these terms. Cubans are also somewhat less likely to report using these terms to describe themselves (73%). (Table 2.3)
- Nineteen percent reports never using these terms to describe themselves. Of those who say they never use the terms "Latino" or "Hispanic" to identify themselves 72% are citizens of the United States (28% are Non-Citizens), 50% were born in the United States, and 50% were born outside of the United States or on the island of Puerto Rico.
- About half of Latino respondents (53%) indicate that they use the term "American" to identify themselves.
    - Native-born Hispanics are much more likely than foreign-born Hispanics to describe themselves as American (90% vs. 32%) though among foreign-born Latinos the likelihood of using these terms varies according to the age at which the respondent immigrated to the United States as those who arrived as young children (10 and younger) are more likely than those who arrived when they were older (11-17) or those who arrived when they were adults (18-25 or 26 and older) to describe themselves as Americans (56% vs. 31%, 25%, 25%). Similarly those whose parents were born in United States (3rd generation and higher) are more likely than those who are the children of immigrants (97% vs. 85%) to describe themselves this way. Those who earn a higher income and those who are more educated are also more likely to call themselves American. (Table 2.1 and Table 2.2)
    - Those from "other countries" (93%), Puerto Ricans (77%) and Cubans (62%) are more likely than Latinos from other countries or regions of origin to say that they describe themselves as Americans. (Table 2.3)

- The other half (46%) say they do not ever use this term to describe themselves. Of those who never use the term "American" to describe themselves, 93% were born outside of the United States, 77% speak Spanish as their primary language (20% are bilingual, 4% speak English as their primary language), 71% are not citizens of the United States.

Table 2.1: The Terms Latinos *Ever* Use to Describe Themselves, by Foreign/Native-born and Generation in the United States

People choose different terms to describe themselves. I'm going to read you a few different descriptions. Please tell me whether you have ever described yourself as any of the following...

				Generation in the United States		
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	1st Generation	2nd Generation	3rd Generation and Higher
Respondent's/respondent's parents' country of origin						
Yes	88%	95%	74%	95%	82%	66%
No	12	4	25	4	18	34
"Latino" or "Hispanic"						
Yes	81	85	74	85	77	72
No	19	15	25	15	23	28
American						
Yes	53	32	90	32	85	97
No	46	67	9	67	15	3

Table 2.2: The Terms Latinos *Ever* Use to Describe Themselves, by Education and Income

People choose different terms to describe themselves. I'm going to read you a few different descriptions. Please tell me whether you have ever described yourself as any of the following...

	Education				Household Income		
	Less than High School	High School Grad	Some College	College Grad	Less than $30,000	$30,000 to less than $50,000	$50,000+
Respondent's/respondent's parents' country of origin							
Yes	93%	87%	80%	77%	90%	85%	83%
No	6	12	20	23	9	14	17
"Latino" or "Hispanic"							
Yes	84	83	73	77	82	84	73
No	16	17	27	23	18	16	27
American							
Yes	39	58	74	73	42	65	80
No	60	42	25	27	57	35	20

Table 2.3: The Terms Latinos *Ever* Use to Describe Themselves, by Country of Origin

People choose different terms to describe themselves. I'm going to read you a few different descriptions. Please tell me whether you have ever described yourself as any of the following...

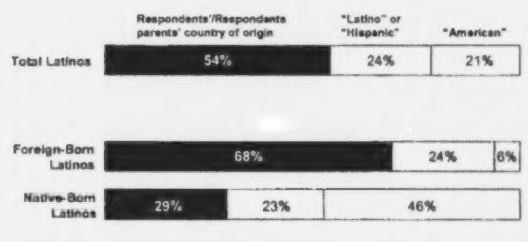
	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Respondent's/respondent's parents' country of origin									
Yes	88%	91%	89%	93%	87%	92%	92%	89%	62%
No	11	9	11	7	13	8%	7	11	35
"Latino" or "Hispanic"									
Yes	82	81	73	86	83	83	90	85	66
No	18	19	26	14	17	17	10	15	34
American									
Yes	50	77	62	35	40	35	42	42	93
No	50	22	38	65	59	64	57	58	7

When asked which terms they would use first to describe themselves, Hispanics are much more likely to identify themselves by country of origin than as a "Latino/Hispanic" or as an "American." (Chart 2.1)

- A little more than half (54%) indicate that they primarily identify themselves in terms of their or their parents' country of origin; about one in four (24%) chooses "Latino" or "Hispanic;" and about one in five (21%) chooses "American."

Chart 2.1

The First or Only Term Latinos Say They Use to Describe Themselves



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002 (conducted April – June 2002)

Foreign-Born vs. Native-Born

Immigration greatly influences identity as evidenced by the primary terms individuals use to describe themselves. (Chart 2.1)

- Hispanics born outside the United States are much more likely than U.S.-born Hispanics to describe themselves primarily by country of origin (68% vs. 29%).

- Latinos born in the United States, on the other hand, are more likely to describe themselves as Americans than are foreign-born respondents (46% vs. 6%). However, even among Hispanics born in the United States, fewer than half (46%) choose to identify themselves as an American first. Being born abroad does not seem to greatly influence whether or not respondents choose the terms "Latino" or "Hispanic" as their primary identification. Only about a quarter of both U.S.-born (23%) and foreign-born (24%) Latinos say they used these terms as their first or only identification.

Age at Immigration Among Foreign-Born Latinos

The age at which foreign-born Latinos immigrated to the United States somewhat influences the terms they use for self-identification. (Table 2.4)

- Immigrants who arrived as adults (age 26 and older) are more likely to identify themselves by their country of origin. Meanwhile those who arrived as children (age 10 or younger) are more likely to identify themselves as Americans. However, even those who arrived at an early age are still more likely to identify themselves by country of origin or as Latino/Hispanic than as an American.

Table 2.4: The Terms Latinos Choose *First* or *Only* to Identify Themselves, by Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos

Among those who describe themselves as more than one term, the *first* or *only* term they use...

		Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	Total Latinos	10 and younger	Ages 11-17	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Respondent's/Parents' Country of Origin	54%	63%	66%	66%	74%
Latino/Hispanic	24	22	28	29	19
American	21	15	4	4	6
Don't describe themselves as any of these	1	*	2	*	1

Generations in the United States

The primary terms Latinos use to identify themselves differ dramatically according to how many generations an individual's family has been living in the United States. Immigrants and the grandchildren of immigrants have preferences that are almost diametrically opposite when it comes to describing themselves by country of origin or as Americans. (Table 2.5)

- Foreign-born Latinos (the first generation) have a powerful preference for identification by their country of origin. Indeed, that is usually not only the country of their birth but also where some spent their childhood years. Not surprisingly then, country of origin was cited as the first or only term used for self-identification by more than two-thirds (68%) of foreign-born Latinos. Among those who were born in the United States of immigrant parents (the second generation), almost equal shares identify themselves either by their parents' countries of origin (38%) or as American (35%). Over half (57%) of Latinos with U.S.-born parents (the third generation and beyond) identify themselves first and foremost as an American.

Primary Language Spoken

Those who predominantly speak English also choose American as their primary identification, while those who are bilingual or who predominantly speak Spanish tend to identify themselves primarily by country of origin. (Table 2.6)

- About half (51%) of English-dominant Hispanics describe themselves first as an American. By contrast, country of origin is the first preference for about half (52%) of bilingual Latinos and two-thirds of Spanish-dominant Hispanics (68%).

Table 2.5: The Terms Latinos Choose *First* or *Only* to Identify Themselves, by Generation in the United States

Among those who describe themselves as more than one term, the *first* or *only* term they use...

		Generation in the United States		
	Total Latinos	1st Generation	2nd Generation	3rd Generation and Higher
Respondent's/Parents' Country of Origin	54%	68%	38%	21%
Latino/Hispanic	24	24	24	20
American	21	6	35	57
Don't describe themselves as any of these	1	1	1	1

Table 2.6: The Terms Latinos Choose *First* or *Only* to Identify Themselves, by Primary Language Spoken

Among those who describe themselves as more than one term, the *first* or *only* term they use...

		Primary Language		
	Total Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
Respondent's/Parents' Country of Origin	54%	68%	52%	29%
Latino/Hispanic	24	27	24	17
American	21	3	22	51
Don't describe themselves as any of these	1	1	1	1

Country of Origin

Over half of respondents from almost every country and region say their primary identification is their or their parents' country of origin. This largely reflects the shares of those groups that are foreign born versus native born. The exception is the small number of respondents from "other" countries—those with relatively minor populations in the United States. Hispanics in this group are also the only group in which a majority primarily identifies as American. Meanwhile, there is some variation among national origin groups in the use of Latino or Hispanic as an identifier of choice. (Chart 2.2)

- Only 12% of respondents from "other" countries identify themselves primarily by country of origin, while 63% of them identify as Americans. Also of note, Colombians are more likely to identify themselves first as their or their parents' country of origin, i.e., as "Colombians," than are Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, and Salvadorans.

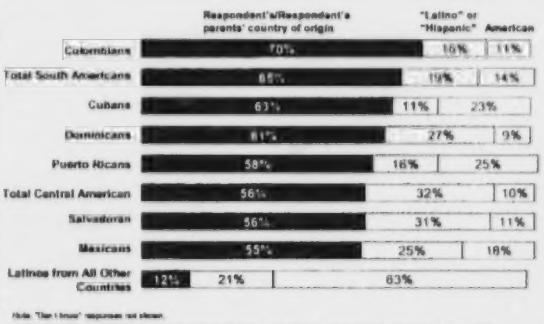
- Central Americans, Salvadorans, and Dominicans are somewhat more likely than Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Colombians to select the terms Latino or Hispanic as their primary identification. Central Americans and Salvadorans are also more likely than South Americans to describe themselves primarily as Latino or Hispanic.

Influence of Citizenship on the Terms Hispanics Choose to Identify Themselves

As might be expected, citizens are much more likely than non-citizens to identify as "Americans" (33% vs. 3%). Nonetheless, Hispanics who are American citizens are still more likely to identify themselves primarily by country of origin (44%) than to identify primarily as an "American" (33%) or as a "Latino" or "Hispanic" (22%).

Chart 2.2

The First or Only Term Latinos Say They Use to Describe Themselves



"LATINO" VS. "HISPANIC"

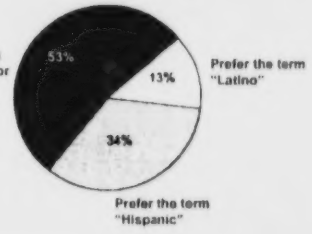
A question that many people seem to struggle with is what is the preferred term to use when talking about people who are of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent—"Latino" or "Hispanic"?

- The answer is that a majority of Hispanics (53%) indicate that they do not have a preference between the terms "Latino" or "Hispanic." Among the almost half (47%) who do have a preference, Hispanic (34%) is generally preferred to Latino (13%).

Chart 2A

"Latino" vs. "Hispanic" Preference

The terms Latino and Hispanic are both used to describe people who are of Hispanic or Latino descent. Do you happen to prefer one of these terms more than the other?



Almost half of all groups indicate that they have no preference between these two terms, but a closer look at those who do have a preference highlights some differences among those from different states and different regions, and among respondents whose families have been in the United States for different lengths of time.

- Those from Texas are more likely than their California counterparts to prefer "Hispanic" while those in California are more likely than those in Texas to prefer "Latino." In addition, those in the South express more preference for "Hispanic," while those in the Northeast are more likely than those in the South to prefer "Latino."

Foreign-born Latinos (the first generation) (32%) and those who were born in the United States of immigrant parents (the second generation) (32%) are slightly less likely to prefer "Hispanic" than are Latinos with U.S.-born parents (the third generation and beyond) (42%).

Table 2A: Preferred Term Among Latinos, by Region and by State

The terms Hispanic and Latino are both used to describe people who are of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent. Do you happen to prefer one of these terms more than the other?

	Region				State	
	Northeast	North Central	South	West	California	Texas
Hispanic	29%	33%	38%	32%	32%	45%
Latino	17	13	9	15	17	8
No preference	54	53	52	53	51	48

Racial Identity

Latinos clearly indicate that they do not see themselves fitting into the five racial categories used by the U.S. Census Bureau and widely utilized elsewhere. The five categories are: White, Black or African-American, Asian, American Indian and Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. In the census, Hispanic or Latino is a distinct, non-racial designation. In the Census 2000 questionnaire individuals were asked first to designate whether or not they are Latino/Hispanic and then in a separate question they were asked to pick a racial category.

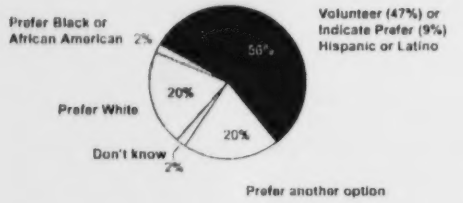
This survey substantially replicated the Census system of questioning and then subsequently offered respondents other options. More than half (56%) of the Latino respondents either volunteered Hispanic or Latino when asked to pick among the standard racial categories, or indicated that they would prefer to see Latino or Hispanic included among the categories. (Chart 2.3)

- When given a choice among the standard racial categories, almost half (47%) of the Latino respondents volunteered their own answer and said that their race is Hispanic or Latino. A similar departure from the standard racial categories was evident among Hispanics in the last census. The Census 2000 questionnaire for the first time included the option of selecting "Some Other Race" in addition to the five standard categories. Some 42% of Hispanics picked the "Some Other Race" category in Census 2000 and another 6% marked two or more racial categories. Both in the census and in this survey, Latinos were virtually alone in breaking away from the standard racial categories. In Census 2000 Latinos made up 97% of the respondents picking the "Some Other Race" category.

- When respondents in this survey were subsequently asked if they would prefer to have another option beyond the standard racial categories, an additional 9% indicated that they would prefer that Latino or Hispanic be one of their options. In terms of the standard racial categories, one in five (20%) indicate that they prefer white, 2% indicate that they prefer black or African American, and less than 1% indicate Asian.

Chart 2.3

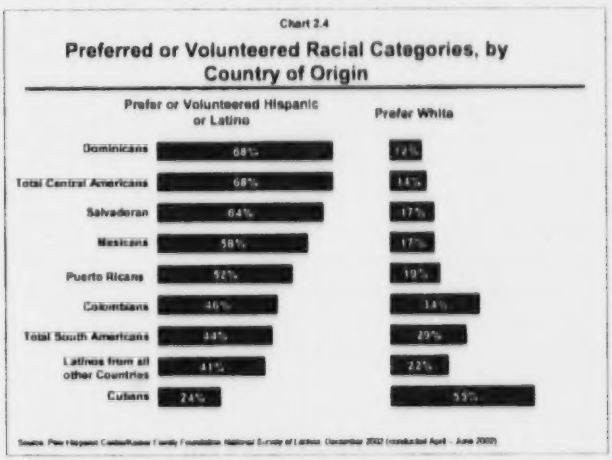
Preferred or Volunteered Racial Categories



A majority of Hispanics from most countries of origin indicate they would prefer to identify their race as Hispanic or Latino. The exceptions are Cubans among whom a majority would prefer to identify as white, and Hispanics from "other" countries and South Americans, including Colombians, who are somewhat more divided in terms of their preferred racial identification. Also, a small number of Mexicans would like to identify their race as either "Mexican" or "Mexican American." (Chart 2.4)

- Over half (55%) of Cubans, about one-third (34%) of Colombians, almost three in ten (29%) South Americans, and 22% of those from "other countries" say that they would prefer to identify as white compared to substantially fewer respondents from other countries of origin who would generally prefer to describe their race as Hispanic or Latino.

- Ten percent of Mexicans would like to identify their race as either "Mexican" or "Mexican American."



Older Hispanics are more likely to say that they consider themselves white, while younger Hispanics are more likely to either volunteer that they are "Hispanic or Latino" or indicate that this is their preference. (Table 2.7)

- For example, about three in ten (32%) Latinos who are age 55 or older indicate that they would prefer to identify as white compared to about two in ten (21%) of those who are ages 40-54, and even fewer of those who are younger. By contrast, a majority of those who are younger than age 55 either volunteered their race as Latino or Hispanic or indicated that they would prefer to identify this way.

Table 2.7: Preferred or Volunteered Racial Categories Among Latinos, by Age

Preferred or Volunteered Racial Identification

	Age			
	18-29	**30-39**	**40-54**	**55+**
Prefer or Volunteered Latino or Hispanic	60%	63%	53%	41%
Prefer White	14	17	21	32
Prefer Black or African American	2	1	2	2
Prefer Asian	*	1	*	1
Prefer Mexican/Mexican American	7	6	5	5
All Other Who Prefer Another Option	14	13	18	17

ONE CULTURE OR MANY? HISPANICS AND PAN-ETHNIC IDENTITY

Hispanics see themselves more as having separate and distinct cultures based on country of origin rather than sharing a single culture as Hispanics or Latinos. (Chart 2.5)

- When asked whether Latinos from different countries have separate and distinct cultures or share one Hispanic or Latino culture, respondents overwhelmingly (85%) say Latinos from different countries had different cultures and only 14% say Latinos share one Hispanic/Latino culture.

Factors such as English as the primary language, and multiple generations in the United States which might imply more distance from country of origin do not seem to influence the generally held belief that Latinos from different countries all have separate and distinct cultures.

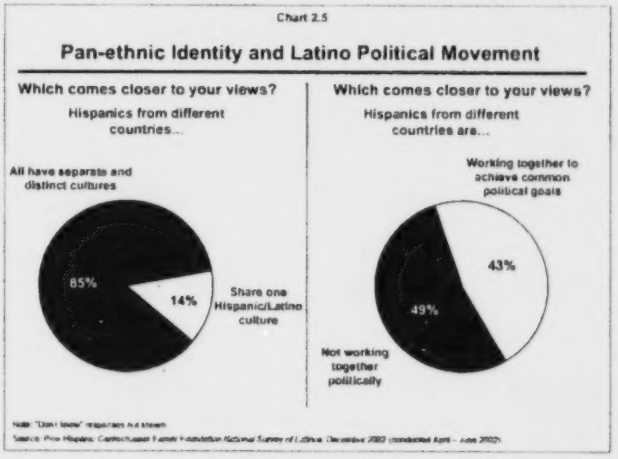
- A large majority of Latinos whose families have been in the United States for at least three generations (87%) and those who are English dominant (86%) also say that Hispanics from different countries all have separate and distinct cultures. On this point their responses are virtually identical to those given by immigrant, Spanish-dominant, and highly traditional Hispanics.

- This view does not differ much by country of origin, though Puerto Ricans are even slightly less likely than some other groups to feel that Latinos share one Hispanic culture (9% compared to 19% of Central Americans and 16% of South Americans).

Latinos are sharply divided as to whether Latinos from different countries of origin are working together politically. (Chart 2.5)

- Latinos split when asked whether Latinos from different countries are working together politically (43%) or not (49%).

- This division does not differ between those who were born in the United States and those born outside the United States, among those from different countries of origin, or among those who speak different primary languages. Nor does it differ by education or income. By contrast, one variable that does show variation is age: Young Latinos (under age 29) (48%) are somewhat more likely to feel that Latinos today are working together to achieve common political goals than are older Latinos (40% of Latinos ages 30 to 39 and 41% of Latinos ages 40 to 54).



ATTACHMENT TO HOME

The terms Latinos choose to identify themselves reveal a strong sense of identity based on the country from which respondents or their parents or ancestors originated. For those who were born outside the United States, this attachment to home country is particularly strong as highlighted by some additional survey questions.

Further evidence of foreign-born Latinos' attachment to their country of origin emerges from their choice of the nation they consider their real homeland, in Spanish "patria."

- By a ratio of nearly two-to-one, Latinos who were born outside of the United States or in Puerto Rico are more likely to say they consider the country of their birth to be their real homeland rather than the United States (62% vs. 33%). However, just slightly more than one third (35%) indicate that they plan to move back to that home country one day.

The attachment to country of origin that foreign-born Latinos demonstrate may also be illustrated by the fact that many continue to be citizens of their home country, some continue to be politically involved, and many return 'home' frequently for visits.

- A large majority (86%) of foreign-born Latinos (excluding those born in Puerto Rico) report that they are legal citizens of their country of origin. Only 12% are not.

- Since moving to the United States, 15% of foreign-born Latinos (excluding those born in Puerto Rico) report that they have voted in an election in their country of origin; many (84%) have not. This translates into just fewer than one in ten (9%) Latinos overall reporting having voted in their country of origin since emigrating.

- Almost three in four (72%) foreign-born Latinos (excluding those born in Puerto Rico) have returned to their country of birth for a visit, and 46% have gone within the last two years.

    - Of the 72% of foreign-born Latinos who say they return to their home country for visits, 63% say they visit at least once every couple of years, including 43% who say they return to their country of origin once a year or more.

SECTION 3: ASSIMILATION

How do Latinos view the United States?

More than half of all adult Hispanics living in the United States today are immigrants, and another fifth are the U.S.-born children of immigrants. With so much of the Latino population shaped by the experience of adapting to a new language and a new culture, it is helpful to understand how Hispanics view American behaviors and values. Moreover, it is useful to understand the many different Latino perspectives on the United States and how they vary according to factors such as where people were born, how long they or their family have been in the United States and whether English or Spanish is their language of preference.

When comparing the United States to the countries where they or their ancestors were born, Latinos overall are fairly positive and optimistic. In particular, they feel very strongly that the United States offers more opportunities to get ahead than they would have had in their or their parents' or ancestors' country of origin and that Hispanic children growing up in the United States will have more opportunities in employment and education than they themselves had. On the other hand, Hispanics express somewhat less positive and more mixed views on the state of moral values and the strength of family ties in the United States. Nonetheless, there seems to be some confidence that Latinos can pass on the values that they deem important, and a majority maintains that Hispanic children growing up in the United States will stay close to their families.

Another interesting indication of how Hispanics view life in the United States is the behaviors they believe are necessary to achieve success here. Hispanics, particularly those who are born outside the United States and those who predominantly speak Spanish, believe that one must do what is best for oneself rather than what is best for others to be successful in the United States. Whites and African Americans disagree that this type of behavior is necessary for success. On the other hand, Hispanics do not feel that to be successful you must work long hours at the expense of your personal life, whereas almost half of whites feel this is the case. Latino viewpoints on these issues, however, differ as Latinos who are likely to be the most assimilated, such as those who are U.S. born and English speaking, are more likely than those who are foreign born or Spanish speaking to agree with the views of white Americans on these issues.

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Assimilating to the United States: Behavior, Values, Religion and Views on Government

One of the key traits that defines the Hispanic population and distinguishes it from other racial and ethnic groups in the United States is the large number of individuals who predominantly speak Spanish. Hispanics, however, particularly those who are themselves Spanish speakers, feel very strongly that this is one area where Hispanics must assimilate in order to be successful in the United States.

Given the large proportion of immigrants, Spanish, in many ways, remains the dominant language in the adult Hispanic population. English, however, clearly gains ground even within immigrant households. The second generation—the U.S.-born children of immigrants—predominantly speaks English or is bilingual. Indeed, Hispanic parents, even those who are immigrants, report that English is the language their children generally use when speaking to their friends.

The survey revealed some nuanced yet notable cultural differences among foreign- and native-born Latinos and non-Latinos. For example, a range of views were expressed in response to a question that asked what advice respondents would give to a recently arrived immigrant about the acceptability of expressing emotions in public. While a majority of all groups would advise that it is okay to express emotions in public, whites and African Americans are somewhat less likely than Hispanics overall to give this advice, and somewhat more likely to advise that it is better to hide emotions and personal feelings in public. Meanwhile, Hispanics who speak English predominantly and those who were born in the United States are more likely to agree with non-Latinos than Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish.

When it comes to social values, Latinos have social values that are somewhat more conservative than whites, but that are often similar to those of African Americans.

Some of these differences in values may be explained by religion. Hispanics overall describe themselves as very religious with a majority identifying themselves as Roman Catholic. Hispanics who say they have no religion express views that tend to be less socially conservative. Nonetheless, religion does not explain all of the differences in social values between Hispanics and whites as both white Catholics and whites who say they have no religion tend to be less conservative on social issues than their Hispanic counterparts.

Some differences also exist based on country of origin. In general, Mexicans and Central Americans tend to be slightly more socially conservative than Latinos from other countries.

In addition, Latinos express a stronger attachment to family than whites. While those whose ancestors have been in the United States for multiple generations express weaker emphasis on family, they are still more likely than non-Latinos to agree with views that underscore the importance of family.

Hispanics also have a generally more favorable opinion of government than do whites or African Americans.

Finally, one belief that does differ strikingly between immigrants and the native born is fatalism, i.e., the belief that it does not do any good to plan for the future because one does not have control over destiny. Foreign-born Latinos, especially those who immigrated after the age of 10, and those who speak Spanish predominantly tend to agree that fate determines the future. By contrast, those born in the United States, those who are foreign-born but who arrived in the United States when they were age 10 or younger, and those who predominantly speak English do not agree that this is the case.

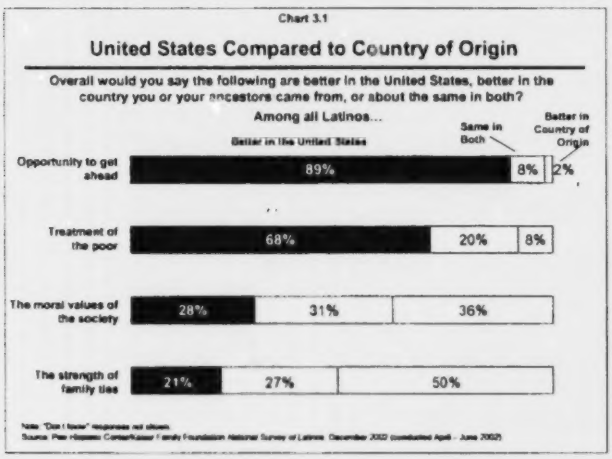
Overall, Latinos who are more assimilated, that is, those who primarily speak English and those whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations, tend to have social values as well as a lack of fatalism that are more characteristic of mainstream American views than are the views of Latino immigrants. However, on issues such as the importance of family and the size of government, Latinos, even after multiple generations in the United States, express a more distinct Latino perspective.

LATINO VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES

Life in the United States Compared to Life in the Country of Origin

When asked to compare aspects of life in the United States to the country they or their parents or ancestors came from, Hispanics express fairly positive views about the United States, while still acknowledging some disadvantages. (Chart 3.1)

- A large majority (89%) of Hispanics feel that the United States provides more opportunities to get ahead, and that the poor are treated better in the United States than they are in their country of origin (68%). On the other hand, Hispanics are divided as to whether the moral values of the society are better in the United States (28%), better in their country of origin (36%), or the same in both (31%). Latinos tend to feel that family ties are stronger in the country they or their ancestors are from (50%) than in the United States (21%).



Foreign-born and U.S.-born Hispanics do not agree completely when comparing the United States and their country of origin. (Table 3.1)

- Foreign-born and U.S.-born Hispanics agree that there are more opportunities to get ahead and that the treatment of the poor is better in the United States. They have some disagreement, however, about whether the moral values of the society and the strength of family ties are better in their country of origin or better in the United States.

Table 3.1: United States Compared to Country of Origin, by Foreign/Native-Born Latinos

Overall would you say each of the following is better in the United States, better in (the country you or your parents or ancestors came from), or about the same in both?

	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
Treatment of the poor		
Better in the United States	68%	70%
Same in both countries	21	18
Better in country of origin	9	7
The moral values of the society		
Better in the United States	25	33
Same in both countries	31	30
Better in country of origin	40	30
The strength of family ties		
Better in the United States	21	21
Same in both countries	22	33
Better in country of origin	55	42
Opportunity to get ahead		
Better in the United States	90	87
Same in both countries	7	8
Better in country of origin	2	3

Some difference in views is also apparent among Hispanics from various countries of origin. Among Latinos from countries that have more recently become a significant source of immigrants, the United States does not fare as well in comparison to home countries. In addition, Puerto Ricans stand out as being more likely than Latinos from other countries to feel that both Puerto Rico and the United States have the same to offer. (Table 3.2)

- Central Americans, Salvadorans, Dominicans, South Americans, and Colombians, are more likely to feel that society's moral values are better in their country of origin than larger groups with longer histories of immigration to the United States, such as Cubans, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans.

- Similarly, Central Americans, Salvadorans, Dominicans, Colombians, and South Americans, and in this case Cubans as well, are more likely than Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Hispanics from "other" countries to feel that the strength of family ties are better in their country of origin.

- While almost four in ten (39%) Puerto Ricans believe that the treatment of the poor is better in the United States, they are still less likely than other Latinos to feel this way, and they are more likely to feel that it is the same in the mainland United States and their country of origin, the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Ricans are also much less likely than Latinos from all other countries of origin to feel that opportunities to get ahead are better in the United States than in Puerto Rico, and again are more likely than others to feel that they are the same.

Table 3.2: United States Compared to Country of Origin Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

Overall would you say each of the following is better in the United States, better in (the country you or your parents or ancestors came from), or about the same in both?

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
The moral values of the society									
Better in the United States	30%	18%	37%	22%	21%	21%	23%	19%	40%
Same in both countries	32	43	27	25	24	21	22	23	29
Better in country of origin	34	34	30	50	52	55	52	54	23
The strength of family ties									
Better in the United States	24	15	17	19	10	17	14	8	23
Same in both countries	28	33	22	19	14	20	11	12	32
Better in country of origin	47	48	59	60	73	61	72	76	35
Opportunity to get ahead									
Better in the United States	90	77	94	90	93	88	91	93	88
Same in both countries	8	18	2	6	6	7	5	6	5
Better in country of origin	2	4	4	4	1	4	2	*	6
Treatment of the poor									
Better in the United States	73	39	73	68	74	63	65	80	59
Same in both countries	18	38	14	22	16	25	19	13	24
Better in country of origin	7	17	9	8	4	10	14	3	10

What the United States Has to Offer

Overall, Hispanics demonstrate optimism that Latino children now growing up in the United States will have better opportunities than they had while still holding similar values. (Chart 3.2)

- Eight in ten Hispanics think Hispanic children growing up now in the United States will get a better education than they had, and a similar number (76%) indicate that they will have better jobs and make more money than they have. Almost seven in ten (68%) believe that these children will stay as close to their families as they have. Fewer, but still a majority (56%), feels confident that Hispanic children growing up now in the United States will have the same moral values as they have.

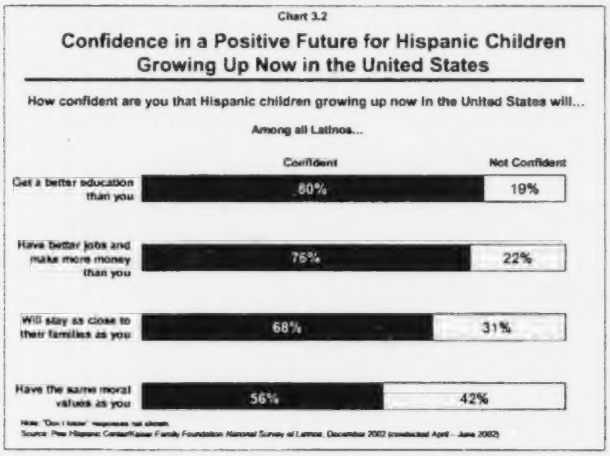


Chart 3.2
Confidence in a Positive Future for Hispanic Children Growing Up Now in the United States
How confident are you that Hispanic children growing up now in the United States will...
Among all Latinos...
Confident
Not Confident
Get a better education than you
80%
19%
Have better jobs and make more money than you
76%
22%
Will stay as close to their families as you
68%
31%
Have the same moral values as you
56%
42%

While both Latinos born in the United States and those born abroad share this general optimism about what the future holds for Hispanic children growing up now in the United States, some interesting variation exists in the degree to which different groups hold this view. (Table 3.3)

- While overall both groups express confidence, foreign-born Latinos are more likely than U.S.-born Latinos to feel *very* confident that Latino children raised in the United States will have better educations and better jobs than they had and that Latino children growing up now in the United States will have the same moral values as they have. On the other hand, U.S.-born Latinos feel slightly more confident than foreign-born Latinos that Latino children raised in the United States will stay as close to their families as they have (78% vs. 62%).

Table 3.3: Confidence in a Positive Future for Hispanic Children Growing Up in the United States Today, by Foreign/Native-Born Latinos

How confident are you that Hispanic children growing up now in the United States will...

	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
Get a better education than you		
Very confident	49%	38%
Somewhat confident	30	42
Not too confident	16	15
Not at all confident	3	3
Have better jobs and make more money than you		
Very confident	46	34
Somewhat confident	30	44
Not too confident	19	16
Not at all confident	4	4
Have the same moral values as you		
Very confident	29	23
Somewhat confident	26	35
Not too confident	32	28
Not at all confident	11	13
Stay as close to their families as you		
Very confident	34	37
Somewhat confident	28	41
Not too confident	30	15
Not at all confident	6	5

Similarly, while Hispanics from all countries of origin share this optimism, some variation in intensity is evident. In particular, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans are generally more likely than those from South American countries, and from Colombia specifically, to feel confident that children growing up now in the United States will have a better education than they had, stay as close to their families and have the same moral values as they have. (Table 3.4)

- For example, eight in ten (83%) Mexicans and Puerto Ricans (79%) say they are confident that children growing up now in the United States will get a better education than they had compared to about two-thirds of Colombians (67%) and South Americans overall (68%).

Table 3.4: Confidence in a Positive Future for Hispanic Children Growing Up in the United States Today Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

How confident are you that Latino children growing up now in the United States will...?

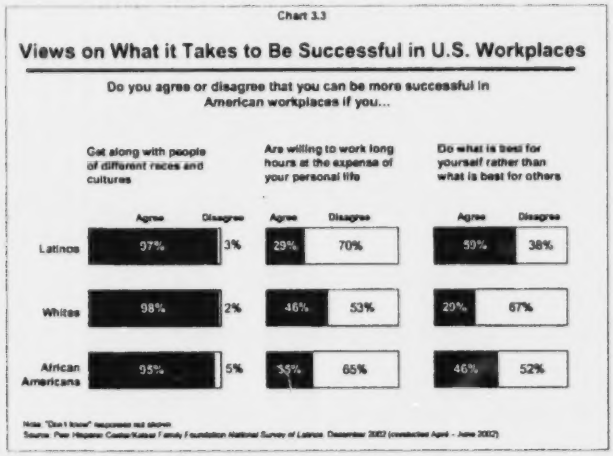
	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Get a better education than you									
Confident	83%	79%	72%	77%	68%	72%	73%	67%	74%
Not confident	16	20	26	21	31	25	24	33	24
Have better jobs and make more money than you									
Confident	77	76	74	78	73	75	71	69	72
Not confident	22	23	22	22	26	25	28	31	25
Have the same moral values as you									
Confident	57	58	53	50	47	48	53	43	59
Not confident	41	40	44	48	51	50	46	56	38
Stay as close to their families as you									
Confident	69	72	58	64	55	63	59	54	79
Not confident	30	25	39	36	45	36	38	46	19

Views on What It Takes to Be Successful in the United States

Behavior in American Workplaces

When asked about behavior that leads to success in the American workplace, an overwhelming majority of Hispanics say that you need to be able to get along with people of different races and ethnicities to be successful. A majority of Hispanics also say that to be more successful you have to do what is best for yourself rather than what is best for others. Hispanics do not, however, think that sacrificing personal life in favor of long hours at work will lead to more success.

- Almost all Latinos (97%) agree that getting along with people from all different races and cultures is important to success. Almost six in ten (59%) say that you can be more successful in the American workplace if you do what is best for yourself rather than what is best for others. Markedly fewer (29%) say that you can be more successful in the American workplace if you are willing to work long hours at the expense of your personal life.



Whites and African Americans also agree that you can be more successful in the United States if you get along with people of different races and cultures. But, they tend to disagree with Latinos on some other aspects of what it takes to be more successful in the U.S. workplace. (Chart 3.3)

- Virtually all whites (98%) and African Americans (95%) agree with Hispanics (97%) that you can be more successful in the U.S. workforce if you get along with people of all different races and cultures.

- Whites, however, are much more likely than Hispanics to feel that long work hours at the expense of one's personal life are a part of success in the United States (46% vs. 29%). African Americans express a view somewhat in the middle (35%).

- Both African Americans (46%) and especially whites (29%) disagree with Hispanics (59%) that to be more successful in the American workplace you need to do what is best for yourself rather than what is best for others.

U.S.- and foreign-born Latinos disagree on some aspects of what it takes to be successful in the United States. These same differences are even more evident between Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish and those who predominantly speak English. (Table 3.5)

- U.S.-born Latinos are more likely than the foreign born to agree that you need to be willing to work long hours at the expense of your personal life to be more successful, but the native born are less likely to feel that you need to do what is best for yourself rather than what is best for others. These same differences are apparent between English- and Spanish-dominant Latinos.

Table 3.5: Attitudes about the Types of Behavior that Lead to Success in the United States Workplaces Among Latinos, by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

Now let me ask you about the kind of values and attitudes that you may have encountered in American workplaces. Do you agree or disagree that you can be more successful in American workplaces if you are...

			Primary Language		
	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
Willing to work long hours at the expense of your personal life					
Agree	22%	40%	17%	33%	45%
Disagree	76	59	81	66	55
Get along with people of different races and cultures					
Agree	97	97	97	97	97
Disagree	2	3	3	2	3
Do what is best for yourself rather than what is best for others					
Agree	66	47	68	55	47
Disagree	32	50	29	44	50

ASSIMILATING TO THE UNITED STATES: BEHAVIOR, VALUES, RELIGION AND VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT

Language Assimilation

Hispanics, whites, and African Americans all agree that adult Hispanic immigrants need to learn to speak English to succeed in the United States. Hispanics who speak Spanish primarily and those born outside of the United States are particularly likely to hold this view. (Chart 3.4)

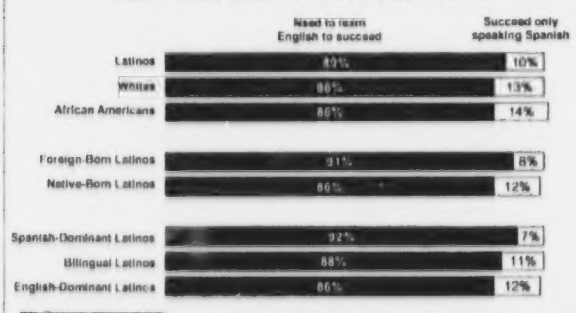
- About nine in ten (89%) Latinos indicate that they believe immigrants need to learn to speak English to succeed in the United States. Similar numbers of whites (86%) and African Americans (86%) agree. Far fewer (10%) Latinos believe immigrants can succeed if they only speak Spanish.

- Slightly more Spanish-dominant (92%) compared to bilingual (88%) or English-dominant (86%) Latinos believe immigrants need to learn to speak English to succeed in the United States. Similarly, foreign-born Latinos are slightly more likely than U.S.-born Latinos to feel English language skills are necessary for success (91% vs. 86%).

Chart 3.4

English Seen as Necessary for Success in the United States

Do you think adult Latino immigrants need to learn English to succeed in the United States or can they succeed even if they only speak Spanish?



In many ways, Spanish remains the dominant language among adult Hispanics. Not only do more Latinos speak and read Spanish than English, but also it is spoken more in the home and used a great deal at work. In addition, Spanish language media are important sources of news for many. (Chart 3.5)

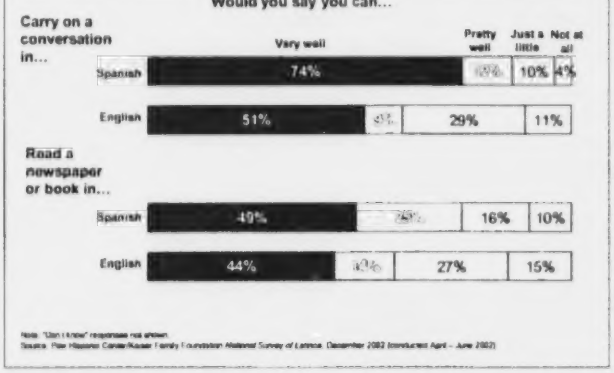
- Overall, a very large majority (86%) of Hispanics report that they can carry on a conversation in Spanish both understanding and speaking "very" (74%) or "pretty" (12%) well, while a significant minority (40%) speaks and understands "just a little" (29%) or no (11%) English.

- Similarly, Latinos are more likely to say they can read a newspaper or book at least pretty well in Spanish than in English (74% vs. 58%). A significant number (42%) indicate that they read "just a little" or no English.

Chart 3.5

Spanish More Dominant Than English Among Latinos Overall

Would you say you can...



Note: "Don't Know" responses not shown.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002 (conducted April - June 2002)

- In addition, a slight majority (53%) of Hispanics report they predominantly speak Spanish at home. About one in five (19%) says Spanish and English are spoken equally in their homes, while 28% say they predominantly speak English at home.

- While almost half (48%) of Latinos who are employed say they predominantly speak English at work, Spanish is also used a great deal in the workplace. More than half (52%) of employed Hispanics report that they speak Spanish at work at least some of the time. This includes about one in four (26%) Hispanics who report speaking predominately Spanish at work, including 14% who report that they *only* speak Spanish at work. About one in four (26%) say they speak both Spanish and English equally.

- Spanish language media are an important source of broadcast news for a majority of Latinos: 38% of Latinos report that they usually listen to and predominantly watch Spanish language news programs, including one in four who *only* tune into Spanish language broadcasts. An additional 26% report that they get their news from both Spanish and English news sources equally. Older Latinos rely on the Spanish language media most heavily while younger, those who are better-educated and those who are more affluent are more likely to get their broadcast news in English.

While Spanish remains the dominant language in the adult Hispanic population, English gains ground even within immigrant households. The second generation—the U.S.-born children of immigrants—is either bilingual or predominately speaks English. Indeed, Hispanic parents, even those who are immigrants, report that English is the language their children generally use when their children are speaking to their friends. (Chart 3.6)

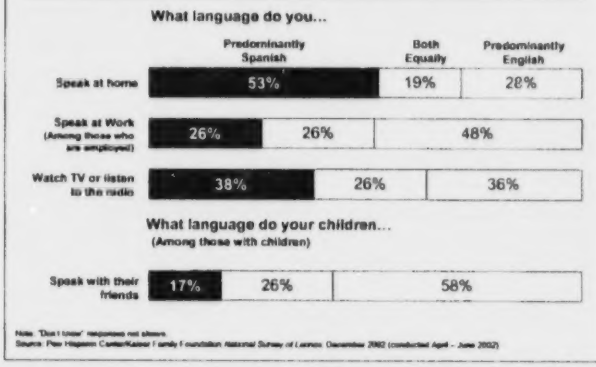
- Only 7% of second generation Latinos are Spanish dominant, while the rest are divided between those who are bilingual (47%) and those who are English dominant (46%). Those whose parents were born in the United States (third generation and higher) are much more likely to speak English predominantly (78%), while about one in five (22%) are bilingual.

- Over half (58%) of Latinos with children say their children usually speak English with their friends, including 36% who only speak English. About one in four (26%) says their children speak both Spanish and English equally with their friends, while 17% report their children speak predominately Spanish, including 13% who *only* speak Spanish.

- English is making inroads among immigrant households. Among foreign-born parents, 45% say their children communicate with their friends predominantly in English and another 32% say their children use both English and Spanish equally. Just 18% of immigrant parents say that their children *only* speak Spanish with their friends.

Chart 3.6

Language Spoken in Various Situations Among Latinos Overall



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos: December 2002 (conducted April – June 2002)

Behavioral Assimilation

Expressing Emotion in Public

Latinos and non-Latinos expressed a wide range of views when asked what advice they would give a recently arrived immigrant about the acceptability of expressing emotions in public. (Table 3.6)

- While a majority of all groups would advise a newcomer that it is okay to express emotions in public, whites (54%) and African Americans (53%) are somewhat less likely than Latinos overall (69%) to give this advice, and somewhat more likely to recommend that it is better to hide emotions and personal feelings when in public.

Hispanics, who are U.S.-born or those who speak English predominantly, express views that are much closer to those of non-Hispanics than do those who are foreign born and those who predominantly speak Spanish. (Table 3.6)

- About one in three U.S.-born Hispanics (35%) and English-dominant Hispanics (35%) would advise a recently arrived immigrant that it is important to hide emotions when in public compared to about one in five foreign-born Hispanics (21%) and Spanish-language-dominant Hispanics (19%).

Table 3.6: Advice about Accepted Types of Behavior in Public Among Latinos, by Total Latinos, Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

If you were talking to a Hispanic immigrant who had just arrived in this country, which of the following statements offers the best advice?

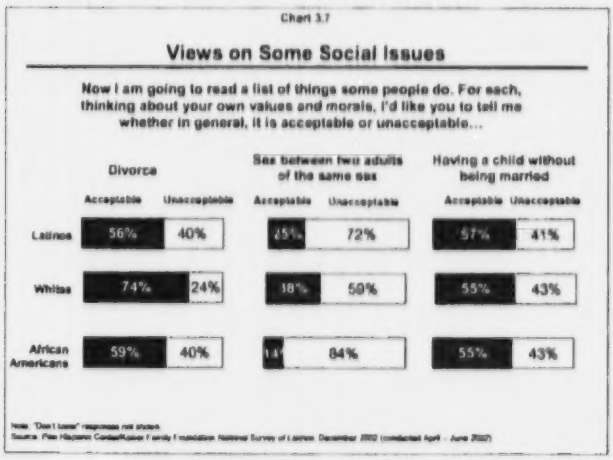
				Primary Language		
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
When you are out in public it is okay to be emotional and express your personal feelings the way you would back home	69%	74%	61%	76%	66%	61%
In the United States it is important to hide your emotions when you are in public and not express your personal feelings	26	21	35	19	31	35

Values and Institutions

Social Values

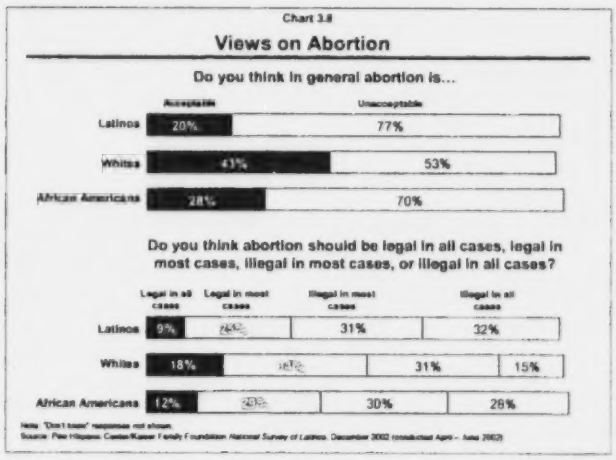
In general, Latinos tend to hold social values that are somewhat more conservative than whites but that are often similar to those of African Americans. (Chart 3.7)

- Four in ten Hispanics (40%) and African Americans (40%) believe that divorce is unacceptable compared to far fewer (24%) whites. Similarly, a larger majority of Hispanics (72%) and African Americans (84%) than whites (59%) feel that sex between two adults of the same sex is unacceptable. In contrast, similar numbers of Hispanics (41%), African Americans (43%), and whites (43%) believe it is unacceptable to have a child without being married.



Whites, African Americans, and Hispanics hold somewhat different views on abortion. (Chart 3.8)

- Hispanics (77%) and African Americans (70%) are much more likely than whites (53%) to feel that abortion is unacceptable. In addition, a majority of Hispanics (64%) and African Americans (59%) believe that abortion should be illegal in most or all cases compared to fewer than half (45%) of whites.



Latinos who were born outside of the United States tend to be more socially conservative than Latinos who are native born, though this does depend to some extent on the respondent's age when he or she immigrated to the United States. (Table 3.7)

- Latinos born outside of the United States tend to hold more socially conservative views on these issues than those born in the United States. However, among foreign-born Latinos those who immigrated to the United States when they were under the age of 10 tend to hold views very similar to U.S.-born Latinos while those who arrived when they were older express more conservative beliefs.

Table 3.7: Views on Some Soical Issues, by Total Latinos, Foreign/Native-Born Latinos and by Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos

For each, thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think in general, it is acceptable or unacceptable.

				Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	10 years or younger	Ages 11-17	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Divorce							
Acceptable	56%	51%	65%	65%	52%	52%	45%
Unacceptable	40	46	30	33	44	46	52
Sex between two adults of the same sex							
Acceptable	25	20	33	37	19	16	16
Unacceptable	72	77	64	59	79	81	81
Having a child without being married							
Acceptable	57	52	65	69	57	51	45
Unacceptable	41	46	32	27	41	48	52
Abortion							
Acceptable	20	14	29	25	14	12	12
Unacceptable	77	83	66	69	84	85	87
Do you think abortion should be...							
Legal in all cases	9	6	14	10	5	4	5
Legal in most cases	25	22	31	33	13	21	21
Illegal in most cases	31	31	31	32	36	32	29
Illegal in all cases	32	39	21	24	42	41	43

Differences in social views are even more pronounced between Hispanics who speak Spanish predominantly and those who predominantly speak English. (Table 3.8)

- Spanish-dominant Hispanics are more likely than English-dominant Hispanics to feel that abortion is unacceptable, that sex between two adults of the same sex is unacceptable, that divorce is unacceptable, and that having a child without being married is unacceptable. Hispanics who speak Spanish predominantly are also more likely than those who speak English predominantly to believe that abortion should be illegal in most or all cases.

Table 3.8: Views on Some Soical Issues Among Latinos, by Primary Language

For each, thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think in general, it is acceptable or unacceptable.

	Primary Language		
	Spanish-Dominant	**Bilingual**	**English-Dominant**
Divorce			
Acceptable	47%	63%	67%
Unacceptable	50	33	29
Sex between two adults of the same sex			
Acceptable	16	27	38
Unacceptable	81	70	60
Having a child without being married			
Acceptable	49	60	67
Unacceptable	48	38	31
Abortion			
Acceptable	10	22	36
Unacceptable	88	73	59
Do you think abortion should be...			
Legal in all cases	4	10	17
Legal in most cases	17	27	37
Illegal in most cases	31	35	27
Illegal in all cases	45	26	16

Latinos from different countries of origin tend to agree on social values, though some significant differences exist in the degree to which they find things acceptable or unacceptable. These differences include the fact that Mexicans are more socially conservative than other groups on some issues. (Table 3.9)

- Mexicans are less likely than Cubans, South Americans, Dominicans, Colombians and Latinos from "other" countries to find divorce acceptable. They are also less likely than Puerto Ricans and Colombians to find sex between two adults of the same sex acceptable and less likely than South Americans, Dominicans, and Colombians to find having a child without being married acceptable.

- In addition, Mexicans are less likely than Puerto Ricans, Cubans, South Americans, Dominicans, Colombians and Latinos from "other" countries to find abortion unacceptable or to think abortion should be legal in most or all cases.

- Central Americans also express more socially conservative views than other groups on some issues including divorce, having a child without being married, and abortion.

Cubans and Puerto Ricans express mixed levels of social conservatism compared to Latinos from other countries; on some issues they are more conservative than other groups and on other issues they are less conservative.

- For example, Puerto Ricans are more conservative than South Americans and Colombians on the issue of divorce, but less conservative than Mexicans and Cubans on the issue of sex between two adults of the same sex.

- Cubans are more conservative than South Americans, Dominicans and Colombians in terms of having a child without being married, less conservative on the issue of divorce than Mexicans, Central Americans, and Salvadorans, and the least conservative group on the issue of abortion.

Table 3.9: Views on Some Soical Issues Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

For each, thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think in general, it is acceptable or unacceptable.

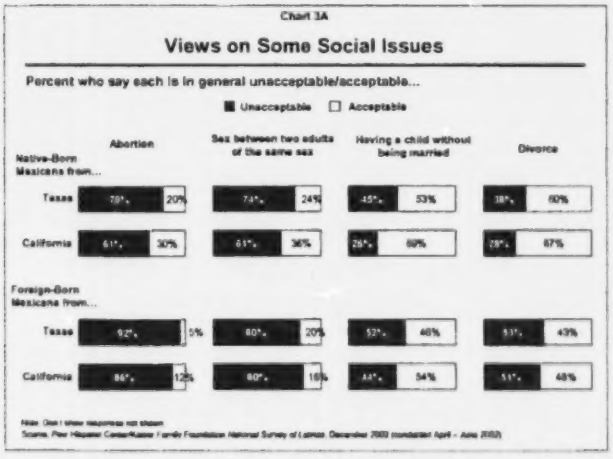
	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Divorce									
Acceptable	53%	59%	67%	55%	72%	55%	68%	72%	63%
Unacceptable	44	36	29	41	27	41	29	26	30
Sex between two adults of the same sex									
Acceptable	23	34	24	24	29	29	25	33	32
Unacceptable	75	64	71	74	66	70	70	60	64
Having a child without being married									
Acceptable	55	60	53	52	69	57	64	72	64
Unacceptable	43	38	42	47	30	40	32	27	33
Abortion									
Acceptable	16	29	33	18	29	20	26	27	27
Unacceptable	81	69	62	79	68	77	69	70	65
Do you think abortion should be...									
Legal in all cases	6	13	25	7	13	6	11	12	13
Legal in most cases	22	35	30	21	31	23	27	29	34
Illegal in most cases	34	23	24	29	22	30	31	22	32
Illegal in all cases	36	26	18	40	31	38	25	35	18

MEXICANS FROM TEXAS VS. MEXICANS FROM CALIFORNIA

The question is often asked if there are differences between Latinos of Mexican ancestry living in Texas and those living in California. While few, there are some key differences between the views of Mexicans in these two states.

Social Values

Native-born Mexicans from Texas are somewhat more socially conservative than their native-born Californian counterparts on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, and having children outside of marriage. In contrast, foreign-born Mexicans in both states share similar social views. (Chart 3A)



Identity

Native-born Mexicans in Texas and California differ in the terms they primarily choose to describe themselves. However, foreign-born Mexicans in these two states describe themselves similarly, typically using their country of origin. (Table 3A)

- Mexicans living in Texas who were born in the United States are less likely than native-born Mexicans living in California to refer to themselves by their country of origin and much more likely to refer to themselves as Latinos or Hispanics.

Table 3A: Primary Term Latinos Use to Describe Themselves, by Foreign/Native-Born Mexican and Texas/California

The First Or Only Term Latinos Say They Use To Describe Themselves

	Native-Born Mexicans who are in...		Foreign-Born Mexicans who are in...	
	Texas	California	Texas	California
Mexican	21%	38%	65%	70%
Latino/ Hispanic	39	16	28	26
American	37	44	4	4

Discrimination

Foreign-born Mexicans living in California feel discrimination is a bigger problem than foreign-born Mexicans living in Texas. Native-born Californians and Texans report having had similar experiences.

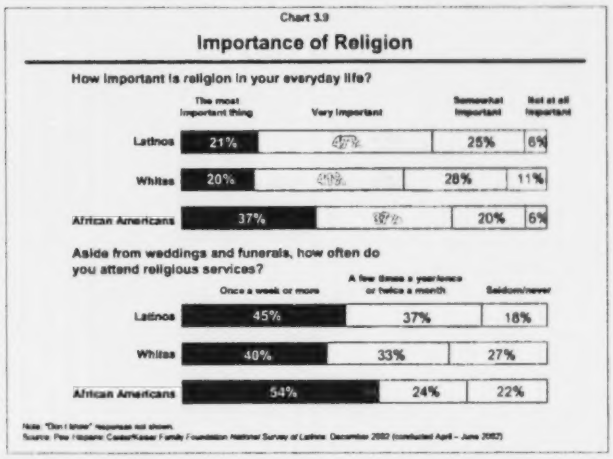
- A majority of foreign-born Mexicans in California feel discrimination in the schools (51%) and in the workplace (56%) is a major problem, while significantly fewer foreign-born Mexicans in Texas feel the same way (31% feel discrimination in schools is a major problem and 38% feel discrimination in the workplace is a major problem).

- Foreign-born Mexicans in California are also more likely to report having had a major problem communicating with a doctor or other health care professional (26%) and getting care because of their race or ethnic background (16%) than foreign-born Mexicans in Texas (12% say they have had major problems communicating with a doctor and 2% say they have had difficulty getting care because of their race or ethnic background).

Religion

Latinos and African Americans are more likely than whites to indicate that religion is important in their everyday life. Similarly, Latinos are slightly more likely to say they attend religious services on a regular basis than are whites, though somewhat less likely than African Americans. Foreign-born Latinos tend to express slightly more religiosity than do U.S.-born Latinos. (Chart 3.9)

- About seven in ten (68%) Hispanics and about three in four (74%) African Americans indicate that religion is an important component of their everyday life compared to slightly fewer whites (61%). Similar numbers of Hispanics (21%) and whites (20%), however, indicate that religion is the most important thing in their everyday life, while many more African Americans (37%) express this attitude.



- Latinos are likely to make religious services a regular part of their life as 45% say they attend religious services once a week or more, and an additional 17% indicate they attend services at least once or twice a month. This is similar to the numbers of whites who attend services regularly (40% say they go once a week or more and an additional 16% say they go once or twice a month). African Americans are more likely to say they attend services once a week or more (54%).

- Foreign-born Latinos are more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to indicate that religion is important in their everyday life (71% vs. 64%), though similar numbers of foreign born (22%) and native born (21%) indicate that it is the *most* important thing in their everyday life. Foreign-born Latinos are more likely than native-born Latinos to say they attend religious services once a week or more (48% vs. 40%).

Cubans demonstrate somewhat less religiosity when compared with Latinos from other countries of origin.

- For example, Cubans (59%) are less likely than Mexicans (70%), Puerto Ricans (69%) or Central Americans (73%) to indicate that religion is the most or a very important thing in their life.

- In addition, Cubans are less likely than every other country of origin group (except those from "other" countries--36%) to indicate that they attend religious services frequently. Less than three in ten (28%) Cubans indicate that they go to religious services once a week or more compared to higher numbers of other groups including Mexicans (47%), Puerto Ricans (46%), Central Americans (48%), South Americans (44%), Salvadorans (45%) and Dominicans (43%).

Hispanics are more likely to feel religious institutions are doing an excellent or good job in helping solve their community's most important problems than are whites or African Americans. Foreign-born Hispanics, in particular, admire the church's role in solving community problems.

- About seven in ten (71%) Hispanics feel that religious institutions are doing an excellent or good job in helping to solve their community's most important problems compared to somewhat fewer whites (62%) and African Americans (58%). Foreign-born Hispanics, in particular, feel that the church is doing an excellent or good job (73%) including about one in four (23%) who feel it is doing an excellent job compared to fewer (12%) U.S.-born Hispanics who express the same sentiment.

While a majority of Latinos from all countries of origin give religious institutions a positive rating on the job they're doing to solve their community's problems, Puerto Ricans, and Colombians to some extent, are slightly less likely than other groups to give religious institutions high marks.

- About six in ten Puerto Ricans (59%) and Colombians (62%) say religious institutions are doing an excellent or good job in helping to solve their community's most important problems compared to over seven in ten Mexicans (73%) and Dominicans (73%). Cubans (70%), Central Americans (69%), and Salvadorans (71%) are also significantly more likely to feel this way than are Puerto Ricans.

The large majority of Latinos overall identify as Roman Catholic, though foreign-born Latinos are more likely to report being Catholic than are U.S.-born Latinos who are somewhat more likely to be Evangelical or Born-again Christians. (Table 3.10)

- Seven in ten Hispanics identify as Catholic, though foreign-born Hispanics are more likely than native-born Hispanics to say they are Catholic (76% vs. 59%). On the other hand, native-born Hispanics are more likely to say they are Evangelical or Born-again Christians than are foreign-born Hispanics (20% vs. 11%).

A majority of Latinos from all countries of origin, except those from "other" countries, identify themselves as Catholics, though some groups are more likely to report they are Catholic while others are slightly more likely to report they are Evangelical Christians or that they have no religion. (Table 3.11)

- Mexicans (76%), Dominicans (74%), Colombians (72%), and South Americans (70%) are somewhat more likely to report they are Catholics than are Puerto Ricans (55%), Cubans (64%), Central Americans (51%), Salvadorans (52%) and Latinos from "other" countries (46%).

- Conversely, Salvadorans (25%), Central Americans (25%) Puerto Ricans (21%), and respondents from "other" countries (25%) are more likely than Mexicans (11%) and Dominicans (12%) to report they are Evangelical or Born-again Christians. Central Americans and Salvadorans are also more likely than Cubans (15%) to report they are Evangelical.

Table 3.10: Religious Preference, by Total Latinos and Foreign/Native-Born Latinos

What is your religious preference?

	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
Roman Catholic	70%	76%	59%
Evangelical or Born-Again Christian	14	11	20
Other Christian Religion/Protestant (Not Evangelical)	6	5	9
Some Other Non-Christian Religion	2	1	3
Jewish	*	*	1
No Religion	8	7	8

Table 3.11: Religious Preference Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

What is your religious preference?

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Roman Catholic	76%	55%	64%	51%	70%	52%	74%	72%	46%
Evangelical or Born-Again Christian	11	21	15	25	13	25	12	15	25
Other Christian Religion (Not Evangelical)	5	8	5	4	5	2	3	3	13
Some Other Non-Christian Religion	1	2	1	4	2	6	1	1	6
Jewish	-	1	1	*	3	-	-	2	2
No Religion	6	12	14	16	8	15	10	7	7

Religious preference is particularly significant as it relates to the values that Hispanics hold. Hispanics who say they have no religion tend to be less socially conservative than Hispanics who are Catholic, those who are Evangelical or Born-Again Christians, or those who say they are some other Christian religion. There is also disagreement among these three groups, however, as Catholics tend to be more liberal on some social issues than Evangelical Christians and those who are some other Christian religion. (Table 3.12)

- For example, those who say they have no religious preference are less likely than Catholics, Evangelical Christians, and those who are some other Christian religion to find divorce unacceptable, to feel that sex between two adults of the same sex is unacceptable, to feel abortion is unacceptable, or to feel that abortion should be illegal in most or all cases.
- Catholics are less socially conservative than Evangelicals and those who are some other Christian religion on issues including same-sex intercourse and, in particular, having a child out of wedlock. They are, however, just as likely as these groups to feel that abortion is unacceptable, though less likely than Evangelical Christians to feel that abortion should be illegal in most or all cases.

Table 3.12: Views on Some Soical Issues Among Latinos, by Religious Preference

For each, thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think in general, it is acceptable or unacceptable.

	Religious Preference			
	Roman Catholic	No Religion	Evangelical or Born-Again	Other Christian (Not Evangelical)
Divorce				
Acceptable	56%	71%	47%	55%
Unacceptable	40	26	50	40
Sex between two adults of the same sex				
Acceptable	26	39	13	16
Unacceptable	71	58	86	83
Having a child without being married				
Acceptable	59	64	44	45
Unacceptable	38	33	55	54
Abortion				
Acceptable	17	42	15	21
Unacceptable	79	53	82	77
Do you think abortion should be...				
Legal in all cases	8	16	5	13
Legal in most cases	26	32	20	24
Illegal in most cases	31	26	36	26
Illegal in all cases	32	24	37	34

While religion does seem to relate to Latinos' social values, it alone cannot explain the fact that Latinos in general tend to be more socially conservative than whites as white Catholics and whites who say they have no religion also tend to be more liberal on social issues than their Latino counterparts. There is more agreement between white and Latino Evangelicals, though here too there is a tendency for whites to be less socially conservative than Latinos. (Table 3.13)

- White Catholics are more likely than Hispanic Catholics to feel that divorce, abortion, and same-sex intercourse are acceptable. Moreover, a majority of white Catholics (55%) feel that abortion should be legal in most or all cases compared to significantly fewer Hispanic Catholics (34%).
- Whites who say they have no religion have more liberal views than their Latino counterparts on divorce, same-sex intercourse, having children out of wedlock, and abortion.
- White and Hispanic Evangelicals agree that sex between two adults of the same sex is unacceptable and that abortion should be illegal in most or all cases. Hispanic Evangelicals are, however, less likely than white Evangelicals to feel that divorce is acceptable. On the other hand, they are more likely than white Evangelicals to feel that having a child without being married is acceptable.

Table 3.13: Views on Some Soical Issues Among Latinos, by Religious Preference and Race/Ethnicity

For each, thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think in general, it is acceptable or unacceptable.

	Roman Catholic		Evangelical or Born-Again Christian		No Religion	
	White Catholic	Latino Catholic	White Evangelical	Latino Evangelical	White No Religion	Latino No Religion
Divorce						
Acceptable	76%	56%	62%	47%	86%	71%
Unacceptable	23	40	35	50	12	26
Sex between two adults of the same sex						
Acceptable	47	26	14	13	63	39
Unacceptable	50	71	83	86	34	58
Having a child without being married						
Acceptable	60	59	36	44	80	64
Unacceptable	39	38	62	55	17	33
Abortion						
Acceptable	42	17	18	15	75	42
Unacceptable	53	79	79	82	22	53
Do you think abortion should be...						
Legal in all cases	18	8	7	5	37	16
Legal in most cases	37	26	21	20	48	32
Illegal in most cases	29	31	44	36	11	26
Illegal in all cases	12	32	28	37	1	24

Gender Roles and the Importance of Family

Hispanics express views that emphasize the importance of family ties, and they have somewhat more conservative views on gender roles than whites. (Chart 3.10)

- An overwhelming majority of Latinos (89%) indicate that they believe relatives are more important than friends. Fewer, though still a sizable majority of whites (67%) and African Americans (68%), share this view. Latinos are much more likely to agree that it is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married than are whites and African Americans (78% vs. 46% and 47%, respectively).

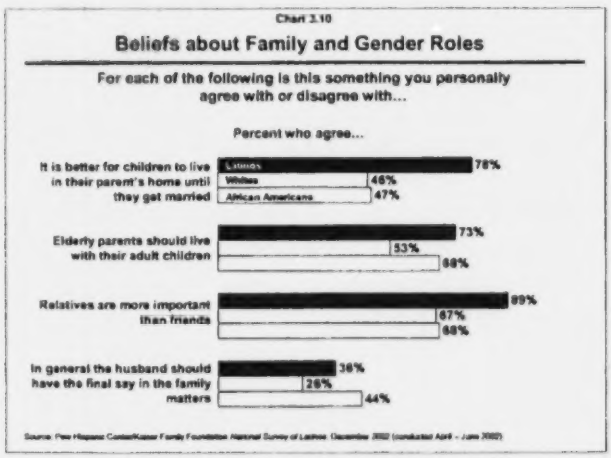


Chart 3.10
Beliefs about Family and Gender Roles
For each of the following is this something you personally agree with or disagree with...
Percent who agree...
It is better for children to live in their parent's home until they get married
78%
46%
47%
Elderly parents should live with their adult children
73%
53%
68%
Relatives are more important than friends
89%
67%
68%
In general the husband should have the final say in the family matters
36%
26%
44%

- Latinos (73%) are also more likely than whites (53%) to feel that elderly parents should live with their adult children.

- A majority of whites, African Americans, and Hispanics disagree with the statement that the husband should have the final say in family matters. Hispanics, however, are more likely to agree with this than are whites (36% vs. 26%). African Americans are the most likely to hold this view (44%).

- Not surprisingly, more Latino males (40%) than females (32%) say husbands should have the final say. That view is also stronger among the elderly than among young adults and with Latinos with less than a college education. There are no large differences among Hispanics of different levels of income.

Table 3.14: The Importance of Family and Gender Roles Among Latinos, by Foreign/Native-Born and Age of Arrival Among Foreign-Born Latinos

Will you tell me for each of the following whether it is something you personally agree with or disagree with? Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

				Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	Total Latinos	**Foreign-Born Latinos**	**Native-Born Latinos**	**10 years or younger**	**Ages 11-17**	**Ages 18-25**	**Ages 26+**
In general the husband should have the final say in family matters							
Strongly Agree	19%	22%	13%	10%	23%	21%	27%
Somewhat Agree	18	18	17	24	12	18	18
Somewhat Disagree	26	27	26	26	28	27	26
Strongly Disagree	36	32	44	39	36	32	28
It is better for children to live in their parent's home until they get married							
Strongly Agree	61	77	33	57	78	81	82
Somewhat Agree	18	14	24	20	11	12	14
Somewhat Disagree	12	5	23	8	7	4	2
Strongly Disagree	9	4	17	15	3	3	2
Elderly parents should live with their adult children							
Strongly Agree	45	52	33	47	50	53	57
Somewhat Agree	28	24	34	31	29	22	21
Somewhat Disagree	17	15	20	14	13	17	14
Strongly Disagree	8	8	9	8	7	7	7
Relatives are more important than friends							
Strongly Agree	75	81	64	67	81	82	83
Somewhat Agree	14	11	18	18	12	11	11
Somewhat Disagree	7	5	12	9	4	5	4
Strongly Disagree	3	2	4	5	3	2	1

U.S.-born Latinos as well as foreign-born Latinos who arrived when they were very young are somewhat less likely than foreign-born Latinos who arrived when they were older to express these views. U.S.-born Latinos, however, even those whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations, are still more likely than non-Latinos to agree with views that emphasize the importance of family. (Table 3.14 and 3.15)

- Foreign-born Latinos are more likely than U.S.-born Latinos to feel it is better for children to live in their parents' home until marriage, that relatives are more important than friends, and that elderly parents should live with their adult children. However, foreign-born Latinos who arrived to the United States when they were young (10 years old or younger) are somewhat less likely to agree with these values, while those who arrived when they were older are more likely to agree.
- While a majority of both foreign-born and U.S.-born Latinos disagree that a husband should have final say in family matters, foreign-born Latinos are more likely to agree than are those who were born in the United States (40% vs. 30%). Again, foreign-born Latinos' views vary depending on the age at which they immigrated to the United States, with those who arrived when they were older being somewhat more likely than those who arrived when they were young to feel that the husband should have the final say in family matters.
- Hispanics whose families have been in the United States for multiple generations are just as likely as those who are the first in their family to be born in the United States to emphasize the importance of family.

Table 3.15: The Importance of Family and Gender Roles Among Latinos, by Generation

Will you tell me for each of the following whether it is something you personally agree with or disagree with? Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

		Generation in the United States		
	Total Latinos	1st Generation	2nd Generation	3rd Generation and Higher
In general the husband should have the final say in family matters				
Strongly Agree	19%	22%	12%	13%
Somewhat Agree	18	18	19	14
Somewhat Disagree	26	27	27	23
Strongly Disagree	36	32	40	49
It is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married				
Strongly Agree	61	77	38	28
Somewhat Agree	18	14	23	26
Somewhat Disagree	12	5	23	23
Strongly Disagree	9	4	14	19
Elderly parents should live with their adult children				
Strongly Agree	45	52	33	32
Somewhat Agree	28	24	31	38
Somewhat Disagree	17	15	23	17
Strongly Disagree	8	8	8	11
Relatives are more important than friends				
Strongly Agree	75	81	63	63
Somewhat Agree	14	11	19	18
Somewhat Disagree	7	5	12	13
Strongly Disagree	3	2	5	4

As with foreign-born and native-born Latinos, a similar divide is evident and slightly more pronounced between Latinos who speak Spanish predominantly and those who speak English predominantly. (Table 3.16)

- Hispanics who are Spanish dominant tend to hold more family-oriented values and conservative attitudes toward gender roles than do those who are English dominant.

Table 3.16: The Importance of Family and Gender Roles Among Latinos, by Primary Language

Will you tell me for each of the following whether it is something you personally agree with or disagree with? Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

	Primary Language		
	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
In general the husband should have the final say in family matters			
Strongly Agree	25%	16%	11%
Somewhat Agree	18	18	16
Somewhat Disagree	28	24	25
Strongly Disagree	28	41	46
It is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married			
Strongly Agree	82	56	27
Somewhat Agree	13	19	25
Somewhat Disagree	3	14	26
Strongly Disagree	2	10	21
Elderly parents should live with their adult children			
Strongly Agree	54	43	32
Somewhat Agree	22	28	37
Somewhat Disagree	16	18	18
Strongly Disagree	7	8	10
Relatives are more important than friends			
Strongly Agree	83	74	59
Somewhat Agree	11	14	20
Somewhat Disagree	4	8	14
Strongly Disagree	2	3	5

Latinos from various countries of origin generally agree on the importance of family and on the husband's role in the family, though some differences in degree do exist. (Table 3.17)

- Mexicans are more likely than Puerto Ricans to *strongly* agree that in general the husband should have the final say in family matters (21% vs. 14%).
- While a majority (67%) of Puerto Ricans indicate that it is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married, they are less likely than respondents from every other country of origin excluding those from "other" countries (57%) to express this attitude.
- Mexicans (75%) are slightly more likely than Puerto Ricans (67%), Cubans (68%), and Dominicans (67%) to agree that elderly parents should live with their adult children.
- While all groups feel strongly that relatives are more important than friends, Colombians (94%) and South Americans (93%) are particularly likely to feel this way.

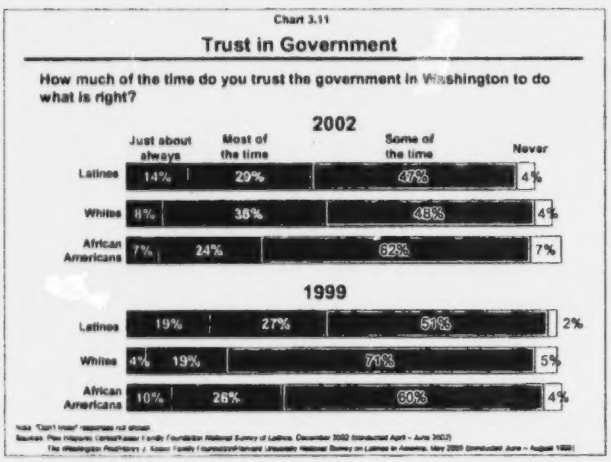
Table 3.17: The Importance of Family and Gender Roles Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

Will you tell me for each of the following whether it is something you personally agree with or disagree with? Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
In general the husband should have the final say in family matters									
Strongly Agree	21%	14%	16%	18%	16%	17%	19%	16%	10%
Somewhat Agree	17	19	22	14	21	15	15	19	17
Somewhat Disagree	27	25	19	23	25	24	31	31	27
Strongly Disagree	34	42	42	44	37	43	34	34	40
It is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married									
Strongly Agree	63	44	68	71	60	73	70	62	38
Somewhat Agree	17	23	14	12	20	11	17	19	19
Somewhat Disagree	10	20	10	9	13	7	9	14	19
Strongly Disagree	8	12	7	7	5	8	4	5	21
Elderly parents should live with their adult children									
Strongly Agree	48	36	40	50	44	41	42	45	31
Somewhat Agree	27	31	28	23	30	27	25	25	34
Somewhat Disagree	17	18	17	14	15	14	19	20	21
Strongly Disagree	7	13	11	12	8	16	10	8	9
Relatives are more important than friends									
Strongly Agree	77	77	69	73	77	75	74	77	56
Somewhat Agree	13	13	17	12	16	9	16	16	24
Somewhat Disagree	7	7	10	7	4	9	5	4	14
Strongly Disagree	3	2	4	6	2	5	3	2	3

One area involving the family on which Hispanics, whites, and African Americans agree is regarding a family's responsibility to support young people while they continue their education.

- When asked if young people should work to support themselves and the family rather than continuing their education, or if the family should support young people so they can keep studying for as long as they want, even through college, a large majority of Hispanics (85%), whites (81%), and African Americans (84%) agree that the family has a responsibility to support young people while they continue their education.



Attitudes Toward Government

Latinos are divided in their views of whether the federal government can be trusted to do the right thing. Currently whites hold similar views, though until recently they were much less likely than Latinos to express faith in the government. Currently, African Americans are less likely than Latinos and whites to trust the government in Washington to do what is right, though historically, whites and African Americans held similar views. (Chart 3.11)

- When asked how often they trust the government in Washington to do what is right, 43% of Latinos said either "just about always" (14%) or "most of the time" (29%). About half (47%) said "some of the time," and 4% said "never".

- Whites currently express similar views, with 46% taking a generally positive view of the federal government (8% said they trust it "just about always" and 38% said "most of the time") and 52% saying it could be trusted to do the right thing only "some of the time" (48%) or "never" (4%).

- African American seem to have less confidence in Washington, with 31% saying it can be trusted "just about always" (7%) or "most of the time" (24%) and 69% taking a generally negative view (62% said "some of the time," 7% "never").

- It is important to note, however, that other survey results suggest that whites' views in particular on this issue may have changed. Previously whites expressed much less trust of Washington. For example, in *The Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University 1999 *National Survey of Latinos in America*, a large majority (76%) of whites expressed more negative views saying they trust the government in Washington to do what is right "only some of the time" or "never." By contrast, Latino and African American views have remained relatively constant. In 1999, 46% of Latinos took a generally positive view, and 53% took a generally negative view. In 1999, the majority (64%) of African Americans took a generally negative view.

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Latinos differ from both African Americans and whites in favoring a larger government that provides more services even if it means paying higher taxes. Income does not seem to influence this view among Latinos. By contrast, income does seem to influence non-Latino views on the size of government. (Chart 3.12)

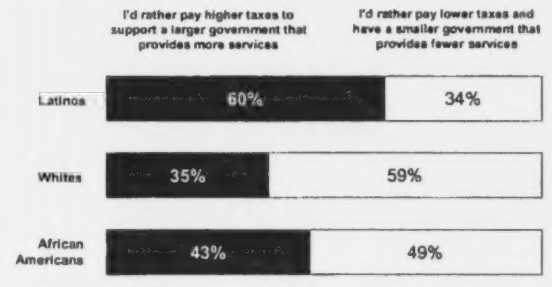
- Over half (60%) of Hispanics would prefer to pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services. However, about a third (34%) disagree and would prefer paying lower taxes and having a smaller government that provides fewer services. Latinos' views on this matter do not vary significantly according to income with 62% of those earning less than $30,000 favoring more taxes and larger government compared to 58% earning more than $50,000 a year or more.

- By contrast, almost six in ten (59%) whites and about half (49%) of African Americans prefer paying lower taxes and having a smaller government that provides fewer services. Among non-Latinos, those who earn higher incomes are more likely than those who earn less than $30,000 a year to indicate that they would rather pay lower taxes and have a smaller government (62% vs. 51%).

Chart 3.12

Bigger vs. Smaller Government

Which of the following statements do you agree with more...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos: December 2002 (conducted April - June 2002)

Foreign-born and native-born Latinos generally express the same faith in government, though they do have slightly different views on the size of government as do those who predominantly speak English and those who are bilingual or Spanish dominant. (Table 3.18)

- A slight majority of foreign-born (51%), native-born (52%), English-dominant (54%), bilingual (50%), and Spanish-dominant (52%) Latinos all express doubts about the government in Washington, saying they trust it to do the right thing "only some of the time" or "never."

- Foreign-born Latinos are more likely than native-born Latinos to say that they would rather pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services (62% vs. 56%). These differences are slightly more pronounced between those who predominantly speak Spanish (62%) or are bilingual (63%) and those who predominantly speak English (52%).

Table 3.18: Attitudes Towards Government Among Latinos, by Total Latinos, Foreign/Native-Born Latinos and by Primary Language

Trust in Government and Attitudes about the Size of Government

				Primary Language		
	Total Latinos	**Foreign-Born Latinos**	**Native-Born Latinos**	**Spanish-Dominant**	**Bilingual**	**English-Dominant**
How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?						
Just about always	14%	17%	10%	18%	13%	8%
Most of the time	29	25	37	22	35	37
Only some of the time	47	49	45	50	45	45
Never (vol.)	4	2	7	2	5	9
Which of the following statements do you agree with more ...						
I'd rather pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services	60	62	56	62	63	52
I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a smaller government that provides fewer services	34	31	39	31	31	43
Don't know	6	7	5	7	6	5

Latinos from different countries of origin do not necessarily share the same level of faith in the government or have the same beliefs about the size of government. (Table 3.19)

- Cubans (64%) and Colombians (52%) are more likely to express faith in the federal government compared to fewer Latinos from other countries of origin, including Mexicans (33%) and Puerto Ricans (38%).
- South Americans (73%), Colombians (76%), and Dominicans (71%) are more likely to want to pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services. By contrast, Puerto Ricans (51%), Salvadorans (49%), and Central Americans (54%) are less likely to feel this way.

Table 3.19: Attitudes Towards Government Among Latinos, by Country of Origin

Trust in Government and Views about the Size of Government

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?									
Just about always	13%	10%	30%	14%	18%	13%	18%	20%	7%
Most of the time	30	28	34	20	32	23	21	32	33
Only some of the time	49	49	28	55	41	54	52	40	41
Never (vol.)	3	9	4	4	2	5	2	1	16
Don't know	5	4	4	7	6	6	7	6	4
Which of the following statements do you agree with more ...									
I'd rather pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services	60	51	62	54	73	49	71	76	56
I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a smaller government that provides fewer services	34	44	31	32	22	34	19	18	38
Don't know	5	5	7	14	5	17	9	6	6

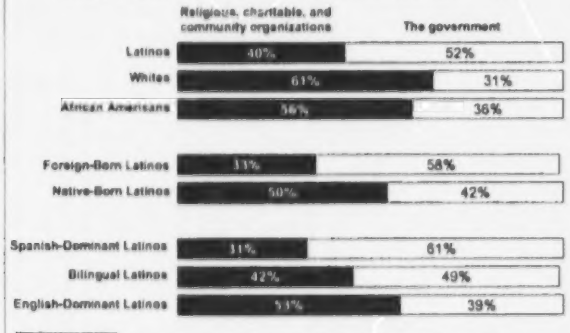
Latinos are somewhat more likely to feel that the government rather than religious, charitable and community organizations can do the best job of providing services to people in need. Whites and African Americans, however, tend to disagree with this assessment. (Chart 3.13)

- Over one-half (52%) of Latinos believe that the government can do the best job of providing services to people in need while fewer (40%) feel religious, charitable, and community organizations can do a better job.
- On the other hand, whites (61%) and African Americans (56%) are more likely to say religious, charitable and community organizations can do the best job providing services to those in need.

Chart 3.13

Private Organizations vs. The Government

Who can do the best job of providing services to people in need?



Foreign-born Hispanics are more likely to put their faith in government while native-born Hispanics tend to favor private organizations. These same divisions are evident between English-dominant, bilingual, and Spanish-dominant Hispanics.

- Hispanics who were born in the United States (50%) are considerably more likely than the foreign-born Hispanics (33%) to say religious, charitable, and community organizations can do a better job of helping people in need and less likely to say the government can do a better job (42% and 58%, respectively).
- Similarly, English-dominant (53%) Latinos are more confident that religious, charitable, and community organizations can do a better job of helping people in need than are bilingual (42%) and Spanish-dominant (31%) Latinos. Conversely, Spanish-dominant Latinos (61%) have more faith in the government's ability to provide services than do bilingual (49%) and especially English-dominant (39%) Latinos.

Born-Again or Evangelical Christians are more likely than Latinos of other religions to feel that religious, charitable, and community organizations can do the best job of providing services to people in need. (Table 3.20)

- Over half (53%) of Evangelical Christians feel that religious, charitable, and community organizations can do the best job of providing services to people in need compared to less than half of non-Evangelical Christians (41%), Catholics (37%), and Latinos who report they have no religion (31%).

Table 3.20: Private Organizations vs. the Government Among Latinos, by Religious Preference

Some people believe that religious, charitable and community organizations can do the best job of providing services to people in need. Others believe that the government can do the best job of providing services to people in need. Which is closer to your view?

	Religious Preference			
	Roman Catholic	Evangelical or Born-Again	No Religion	Other Christian (Not Evangelical)
Religious, charitable and community organizations can do the best job of providing services to people in need	37%	53%	31%	41%
The government can do the best job of providing services to people in need	55	40	57	45
Don't know	8	7	12	14

Fatalism

Fatalism, or the belief that it does not do any good to plan for the future because you do not have any control over your fate, is a widespread belief among foreign-born Hispanics, especially those who immigrated after the age of 10, and those who predominantly speak Spanish. Those who speak English predominantly, the native born and the foreign born who immigrated to the United States when they were younger than age 10, do not take a fatalistic view. (Chart 3.14)

- Overall four in ten (42%) Latinos agree that it doesn't do any good to plan for the future because you don't have control over it. One in three African Americans (33%) also agree with this statement compared to 15% of whites.

- A majority (52%) of foreign-born Latinos believe that it doesn't do any good to plan for the future because you don't have control over it compared to only about one in four (25%) U.S.-born Latinos. However, among foreign-born Latinos, those who immigrated when they were age 10 or younger are much less likely to have this attitude (32%) compared to a majority of those who arrived between ages 11-17 (54%), ages 18-25 (56%), and ages 26 or older (55%).

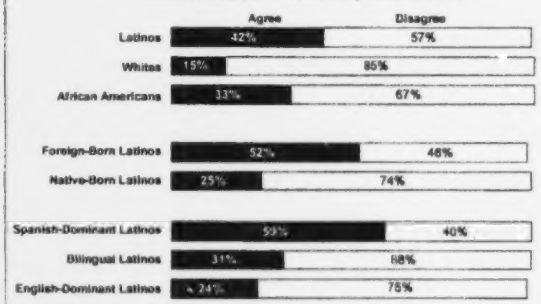
- Similarly, almost six in ten (59%) Spanish-dominant Latinos express this type of fatalism compared to only about one in four (24%) English-dominant Latinos.

- Puerto Ricans (35%) are slightly less likely than Latinos from Mexico (44%), Cuba (44%), South America (47%), the Dominican Republic (45%), and Colombians (48%) to agree that it doesn't do any good to plan for the future because you don't have control over it.

Chart 3.14

Fatalism

Do you agree or disagree that it doesn't do any good to plan for the future because you don't have any control over it?



Section 4: Experiences with and Views about Discrimination

Latinos overwhelmingly say that discrimination against Latinos is problem both in general and in specific settings such as schools and the workplace. A majority of whites and African Americans agree, but they are less likely to say that discrimination against Latinos is a problem than their Latino counterparts.

An overwhelming majority of Hispanics also report that discrimination by Hispanics against other Hispanics is a problem, and almost half feel that this is a major problem. Latinos are most likely to attribute this type of discrimination to disparities in income and education, though a substantial number also feel that Latinos discriminate against other Latinos because they or their parents or ancestors are from a different country of origin.

When asked about their personal experience with discrimination, a smaller, though still substantial, number of Hispanics report that they or someone close to them has suffered discrimination in the last five years because of their racial or ethnic background. About one in seven Latinos reports personally experiencing employment-related discrimination, including not being hired for a job or not promoted because of their race or ethnicity.

In addition to those who say they or someone close to them has experienced discrimination, many Hispanics report experiencing more subtle forms of unfair treatment because of their race or ethnicity such as being insulted or called names, being treated with less respect than others, and receiving poorer service than others.

When Hispanics were asked to explain why they believe they have been discriminated against or treated unfairly in the past, they are most likely to say that it was due to the language they speak, though many also attribute it to their physical appearance, or feel that it was a result of both the language they speak and the way they look.

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VIEWS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS LATINOS

A large majority of Latinos feel that discrimination against Latinos is a problem in general and that it is also a problem in specific settings such as in schools and the workplace. Smaller majorities of whites and African Americans agree. (Chart 4.1)

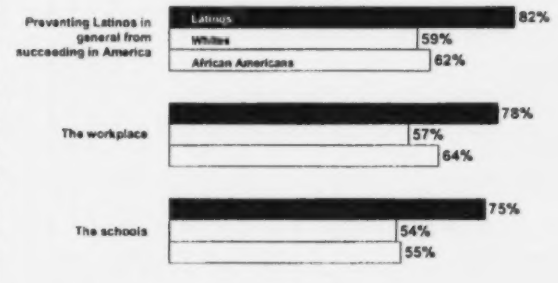
- Over eight in ten (82%) Latinos report that discrimination against Latinos is a problem in preventing Latinos from succeeding in the United States. By comparison, about six in ten African Americans (62%) and whites (59%) come to the same conclusion.

- Seventy-eight percent of Latinos feel discrimination in the workplace is a problem for Latinos compared to fewer African Americans (64%) and whites (57%). Three out of four Latinos also report discrimination against Latinos in schools is a problem compared to a little over half of African Americans (55%) and whites (54%).

Chart 4.1

Is Discrimination Against Latinos a Problem?

Percent of respondents who think discrimination against Latinos is a problem in...



Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos: December 2002 (conducted April – June 2002).

Foreign-born and native-born Latinos agree that discrimination against Latinos is a problem, though some differences exist in the degree to which they feel it is a problem. The age at which foreign-born Latinos immigrated to the United States also influences the degree to which they see discrimination as a problem. (Table 4.1)

- While similar numbers of foreign-born and native-born Hispanics feel that discrimination is a problem in general (84%, 79%), in the schools (77%, 71%), and in the workplace (79%, 77%), they do not always agree as to whether this is a major or minor problem. Rather, foreign-born Latinos are more likely than Latinos born in the United States to feel that discrimination is a major problem in preventing Latinos from succeeding in general in the United States (52% vs. 30%), in schools (45% vs. 26%), and in the workplace (48% vs. 29%).

- Latinos immigrating to the United States after the age of 10 are more likely to report discrimination against Latinos is a major problem in preventing Latinos from succeeding in the United States than are Latinos who arrived in the United States when they were younger than age ten.

The differences in the degree to which discrimination is viewed as a problem are more pronounced between Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish and those who speak English predominantly. In this case, bilingual Latinos have views closer to those of English-dominant Latinos than of Spanish-dominant Latinos. (Table 4.2)

- Over half (55%) of Latinos who are Spanish dominant, compared to 38% of bilingual Latinos and 29% of English-dominant Latinos, report thinking discrimination is a major problem in preventing Latinos from succeeding in the United States.

Table 4.1: Discrimination as a Problem in Schools, the Workplace and in Preventing Latinos from Succeeding in the United States, by Total Latinos, Foreign/Native-Born Latinos and Age at Immigration to United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos

In general, do you think discrimination against Latinos is a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem in...?

				Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	10 and younger	Ages 11-17	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Preventing Latinos from succeeding in general in the United States							
Major problem	44%	52%	30%	37%	53%	58%	52%
Minor problem	38	32	49	46	33	28	30
Not a problem	16	15	19	16	12	13	16
The schools							
Major problem	38	45	26	35	51	46	42
Minor problem	37	32	45	43	28	31	33
Not a problem	21	18	25	22	16	18	17
The workplace							
Major problem	41	48	29	40	49	50	47
Minor problem	37	31	48	43	30	31	28
Not a problem	19	19	21	16	18	17	22

Table 4.2: Discrimination as a Problem in Schools, the Workplace and in Preventing Latinos from Succeeding in the United States, by Total Latinos and Primary Language

In general, do you think discrimination against Latinos is a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem in...?

		Primary Language		
	Total Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
Preventing Latinos from succeeding in general in the United States				
Major problem	44%	55%	38%	29%
Minor problem	38	28	45	50
Not a problem	16	15	15	20
The schools				
Major problem	38	48	32	25
Minor problem	37	30	42	45
Not a problem	21	17	21	27
The workplace				
Major problem	41	51	37	27
Minor problem	37	28	42	50
Not a problem	19	18	19	22

Latinos from all countries of origin feel that discrimination is a problem preventing Latinos from succeeding. Among country-of-origin groups, Cubans are slightly less likely than others to hold that view. On the other hand, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and Cubans are slightly less likely than other groups to feel that discrimination is a problem in the schools. (Table 4.3)

- About eight in ten (82%) Latinos report discrimination prevents Latinos from succeeding in the United States. Nearly nine in ten Salvadorans (89%) and Dominicans (89%) feel this way, while somewhat fewer Cubans (69%) agree. Overall, the national origin groups that are largely made up of immigrants express greater concern over discrimination than the groups that are more of a mix of the native and foreign born.

- Dominicans (82%), Salvadorans (83%), and Colombians (83%) are more likely to report that discrimination in schools is a problem compared to slightly fewer Mexicans (75%), Puerto Ricans (72%) and Cubans (61%).

Latinos Discriminating Against Other Latinos

An overwhelming majority of Latinos report that Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem, including almost half who feel that this is a major problem. Latinos are most likely to attribute this type of discrimination to different levels of income and education, though a substantial number also feel that Latinos discriminate against each other based on their country of origin. (Chart 4.2)

- More than eight in ten (83%) Latinos report that Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem. About half (48%) report it is a major problem and over a third (35%) report it is a minor problem.

- When those who feel that this type of discrimination is a problem were offered reasons as to why this occurs, four in ten (41%) report that Latinos mainly discriminate against each other because of different levels of income and education, and a third (34%) say it is because of differences in country of origin. Only eight percent attribute this type of discrimination to differences of skin color.

Foreign-born Latinos are even more likely than native-born Latinos to report Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem. Furthermore, among foreign-born Latinos, those who immigrated after age 10 are more likely to feel that this is a major problem compared to those who arrived when they were younger. (Table 4.4)

- Nearly nine in ten (89%) foreign-born Latinos report this type of discrimination is a problem. Fewer, but still the large majority of native-born Latinos (73%) report Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem.

- Among foreign-born Latinos, those immigrating to the United States after the age of 10 are more likely to report Latinos discriminating against other Latinos as a major problem than are those who arrived when they were younger than age 10.

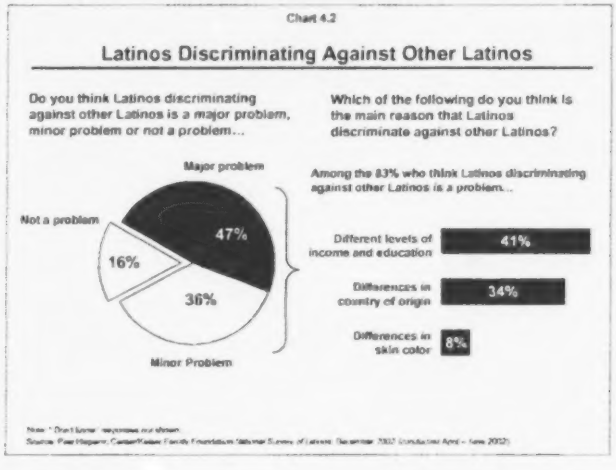


Chart 4.2
Latinos Discriminating Against Other Latinos
Do you think Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a major problem, minor problem or not a problem...
Major problem
Not a problem
47%
16%
36%
Minor Problem
Which of the following do you think is the main reason that Latinos discriminate against other Latinos?
Among the 83% who think Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem...
Different levels of income and education
41%
Differences in country of origin
34%
Differences in skin color
8%

Table 4.3: Discrimination as a Problem in Schools, the Workplace and in Preventing Latinos from Succeeding in the United States, by Country of Origin

In general, do you think discrimination against Latinos/Hispanics is a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem in...?

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Preventing Latinos from succeeding in general in the United States									
Major problem	44%	42%	38%	54%	48%	56%	55%	56%	25%
Minor problem	38	41	31	32	34	33	34	28	51
Not a problem	16	15	26	13	17	11	11	16	17
The schools									
Major problem	36	36	30	53	50	54	52	58	26
Minor problem	39	36	31	29	28	29	30	25	42
Not a problem	20	23	33	15	17	12	16	14	28
The workplace									
Major problem	41	41	35	50	42	50	53	49	25
Minor problem	37	42	37	32	36	32	29	33	50
Not a problem	20	15	22	16	22	15	16	17	23

Table 4.4: Latinos Discriminating Against Other Latinos, by Total Latinos, Foreign/Native-Born Latinos and Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos

Do you think Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem?

				Age at Immigration to the United States Among Foreign-Born Latinos			
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	10 and younger	Ages 11-17	Ages 18-25	Ages 26+
Major problem	47%	57%	29%	40%	60%	61%	60%
Minor problem	36	32	44	44	29	29	30
Not a problem	16	11	24	15	11	10	9

The extent to which Latinos feel that discrimination among Latinos is a problem also varies by level of education. Those with varying degrees of education all agree that Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem, however, those who have less than a high school education are more likely to report that this type of discrimination is a major problem. (Table 4.5)

- A majority (58%) of Latinos with less than a high school diploma feel that this type of discrimination is a major problem compared to almost four in ten high school graduates (39%), Latinos with some college (38%), and college graduates (37%).

While a fairly large majority of Latinos from almost every country of origin feels that this type of discrimination is a problem, respondents from "other" countries -- a group made up of Latinos who are from countries that do not have large populations in the United States, including the Caribbean islands and Spain, are somewhat less likely to feel this way. The reasons respondents believe Latinos discriminate against other Latinos also varies by country of origin. (Table 4.6)

- While a majority (62%) of Latinos from "other" countries feel that Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a problem, about one in three (34%) in this group indicates that this type of discrimination is not a problem, which is significantly more than in any other country of origin group.

- Latinos from Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic are more likely than respondents from other countries to report that the main reason for Latinos discriminating against other Latinos has to do with differences in countries of origin rather than different levels of income and education. Latinos from other countries of origin are more likely to feel that differences in levels of income and education are the reasons for this type of discrimination.

- Dominicans are more likely than other Latinos to report skin color as a main reason for explaining why Latinos discriminate against other Latinos.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination

A substantial number of Latinos report having been personally discriminated against or having someone close to them discriminated against in the last five years because of their racial or ethnic background. (Chart 4.3)

- Thirty-one percent of Latinos report they or someone close to them has experienced discrimination. Almost half (46%) of African Americans and substantially fewer (13%) whites similarly report that they or someone close to them has personally experienced discrimination in the last five years.

Foreign-born Latinos are less likely than native-born Latinos to report that they personally or someone close to them has been discriminated against in the last five years. Similarly, English-dominant Latinos and bilingual Latinos are more likely than Spanish-dominant Latinos to report personal experiences of discrimination.

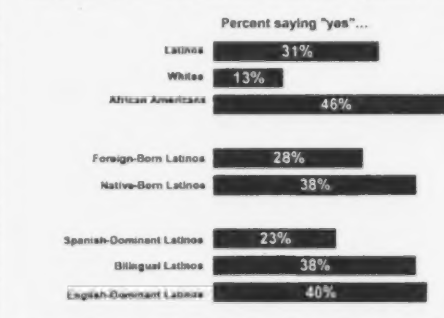
- Foreign-born Latinos (28%) are less likely than native-born Latinos (38%) to report that they have been either personally discriminated against or know someone close to them who has been discriminated against in the last five years.

- Less than a quarter (23%) of Spanish-dominant Latinos report personal experience with discrimination, while 38% of bilingual Latinos and 40% of English-dominant Latinos report either they or someone they know have been discriminated against in the past five years.

Chart 4.3

Personal Experience with Discrimination

During the last five years, have you, a family member, or close friend experienced discrimination because of your racial or ethnic background, or not?



Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002 (conducted April – June 2002)

Table 4.5: Latinos Discriminating Against other Latinos, by Total Latinos and Education Among Latinos

Do you think Latinos discriminating against other Latinos is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem?

		Education			
	Total Latinos	Less than High School	High School Grad	Some College	College Grad
Major problem	47%	58%	39%	38%	37%
Minor problem	36	27	42	45	44
Not a problem	16	14	18	17	15

Table 4.6: Latinos Discriminating Against Other Latinos and Reported Explanations, by Total Latinos and Country of Origin

Latinos Discriminating Against other Latinos and reported explanation

		Country of Origin								
	Total Latinos	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Do you think Hispanics discriminating against other Hispanics is a...										
Major problem	47%	48%	39%	42%	53%	52%	54%	57%	61%	24%
Minor problem	36	35	43	38	38	34	39	30	33	38
Not a problem	16	15	17	15	8	12	7	12	4	34
Do you think Hispanics discriminate against each other mainly because...										
Hispanics come from different countries	34	30	50	45	31	39	32	44	39	25
Hispanics have different levels of income	41	44	25	36	41	44	36	29	44	43
Of differences in skin color	8	8	9	7	8	4	10	16	4	5
All of the above	6	6	6	3	5	6	3	7	7	9
Some other reason	6	5	6	6	12	2	16	1	4	11

Cubans are less likely than Latinos from other countries of origin to report that they or someone close to them has been discriminated against in the past 5 years. (Table 4.7)

- Fewer Cubans (22%) report having personal experience with discrimination than people from other countries, including Mexicans (30%), South Americans (32%), Colombians (33%), Puerto Ricans (36%), Central Americans (37%) and Salvadorans (43%).

Younger Latinos are the most likely to report they or someone close to them has been discriminated against in the past five years.

- Nearly four in ten (37%) Latinos between the ages of 18 and 29 report they or someone close to them experienced personal discrimination in the last five years. This percentage decreases with age. Three in ten 30- to 39-year-olds and one-third 40- to 54-year-olds also report personally being discriminated against in the last five years. Among Latinos 55 and older, 20% report experiencing discrimination in the last five years.

Latinos with higher education levels and incomes are more likely to report they or someone close to them has been discriminated against in the last five years. (Table 4.8)

- A quarter (24%) of Latinos with less than a high school diploma report that they or someone close to them has been personally discriminated against, while Latinos who are college graduates (42%) or had some college (41%) are the most likely to report they or someone close to them was personally discriminated against in the last five years.

- Twenty-seven percent of Latinos earning less than $30,000 report experience with such discrimination in the last five years compared to four in ten Latinos with a household income over $50,000.

Table 4.7: Personal Experience with Discrimination During the Last Five Years, by Total Latinos and Country of Origin

During the last 5 years, have you, a family member, or close friend experienced discrimination because of your racial or ethnic background, or not?

		Country of Origin								
	Total Latinos	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Yes	31%	30%	36%	22%	37%	32%	43%	30%	33%	42%
No	68	69	63	77	62	68	57	69	66	58

Table 4.8: Personal Experience with Discrimination During the Last Five Years Among Latinos, by Education and Household Income

During the last 5 years, have you, a family member, or close friend experienced discrimination because of your racial or ethnic background, or not?

	Education				Household Income		
	Less than High School	High School Grad	Some College	College Grad	Less than $30,000	$30,000 to less than $50,000	$50,000+
Yes	24%	34%	41%	42%	27%	38%	40%
No	75	65	59	57	72	62	60

Personal Experience with Discrimination in the Workplace

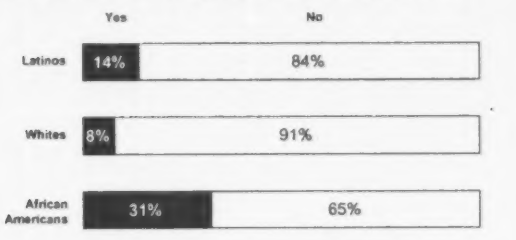
Compared to other experiences of unfair treatment, many fewer Latinos report that they have experienced discrimination specifically related to employment. Meanwhile, whites are slightly less likely to report that they have not been hired or promoted because of their race or ethnic background, while African Americans are more than two times as likely as Latinos to report this type of experience. (Chart 4.4)

- About one in seven (14%) Latinos feels that they have not been hired or promoted because of their race or ethnic background. By comparison, about three in ten (31%) African Americans report having been personally discriminated against in the workplace compared to far fewer (8%) whites.

Chart 4.4

Personal Experience with Workplace Discrimination

Has there ever been at time when you have NOT been hired or promoted for a job because of your race or ethnic background, or has this not happened to you?



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of Latinos*, December 2002 (conducted April – June 2002).

Among Latinos, reported experience with discrimination in the workplace does not differ much by foreign vs. native birth, language preferences, or generation in the family to live in the United States.

- Foreign-born Latinos (14%) are as likely as native-born Latinos (13%) to report personally experiencing discrimination in the workplace.
- Similar percentages of first generation (14%), second generation (12%), and third generation and higher (14%) report personally experiencing discrimination in the workplace.
- Virtually identical percentages of Latinos report experiencing this type of discrimination regardless of primary language (English dominant 14%, bilingual 13%, Spanish dominant 14%).

Some slight differences in reported work-related discrimination exist among Latinos according to country of origin. (Table 4.9)

- Puerto Ricans (19%) and Central Americans (19%) were slightly more likely to report that they were not hired or promoted than Mexicans (12%).

Table 4.9: Personal Experience with Workplace Discrimination, by Total Latinos and Country of Origin

Has there ever been a time when you have **NOT** been hired or promoted for a job because of your race or ethnic background, or has this not happened to you?

		Country of Origin								
	Total Latinos	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Yes	14%	12%	19%	14%	19%	13%	16%	18%	15%	15%
No	84	86	79	85	80	85	82	79	83	83

Unfair Treatment

When asked about more subtle forms of discrimination, a sizeable number of Latinos report being treated badly at least once in a while because of their race or ethnic background. African Americans are more likely than Latinos to report this type of poor treatment, while whites are much less likely than both Latinos and African Americans to report having these experiences. (Chart 4.5)

- Almost half (45%) of Latinos report that at least once in a while they are treated with less respect than other people because of their race or ethnicity. Two-thirds (67%) of African Americans and less than a quarter (23%) of whites also report being treated with less respect at least once in awhile.

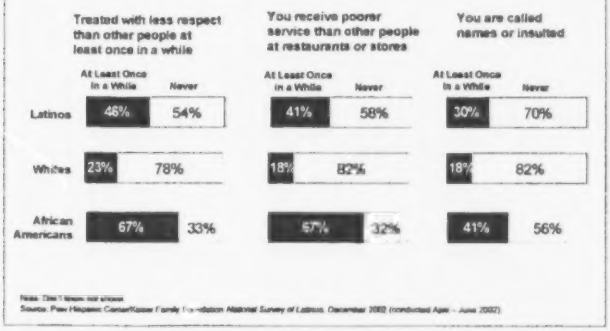
- About four in ten (41%) Latinos report that at least once in a while they receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores. Two-thirds (67%) of African Americans and less than a fifth (18%) of whites report receiving poorer service at least once in a while.

- Three in ten Latinos report that at least once in a while they are called names or insulted because of their race or ethnicity. Four in ten (41%) African Americans and less than a fifth (18%) of whites report being called names at least once in a while.

Chart 4.5

Reported Experiences with Unfair Treatment

In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you because of your racial or ethnic background?



Foreign-born and native-born Latinos as well as Latinos with different language preferences are about as likely to report having been treated with less respect than other people at least once in a while. (Table 4.10)

- Native-born (46%) and foreign-born (46%) Latinos report being treated with less respect at least once in a while. Similar numbers of Spanish-dominant (44%), bilingual (47%), and English-dominant (47%) Latinos also report being treated this way.

Older Latinos are less likely than those who are younger to report experiencing unfair treatment at least once in a while because of their race or ethnicity. (Table 4.11)

- For example, Latinos ages 55 or older are much less likely than Latinos under age 55 to report that because of their racial or ethnic background at least once in a while they are treated with less respect, receive poorer service than other people at restaurants are stores, or are called names or insulted.

Table 4.10: Frequency of Reported Experiences with Discrimination or Unfair Treatment, by Total Latinos and Foreign/Native-Born

In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you because of your racial or ethnic background? Would you say very often, fairly often, once in a while, or never?

	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos
Treated with less respect than other people			
Very often	5%	6%	4%
Fairly often	3	3	4
Once in a while	37	37	38
Never	54	53	55
Receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores			
Very often	4	5	3
Fairly often	4	3	5
Once in a while	33	34	32
Never	58	57	60
You are called names or insulted			
Very often	2	2	2
Fairly often	3	3	3
Once in a while	25	24	25
Never	70	70	69

Table 4.11: Frequency of Reported Experiences with Discrimination or Unfair Treatment, Among Latinos, by Age

In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you because of your racial or ethnic background? Would you say very often, fairly often, once in a while, or never?

	Age			
	18-29	30-39	40-54	55+
Treated with less respect than other people				
Very often	6%	5%	7%	2%
Fairly often	3	5	3	2
Once in a while	42	40	39	23
Never	48	50	51	72
Receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores				
Very often	5	4	4	2
Fairly often	4	4	5	3
Once in a while	36	37	35	19
Never	54	54	56	76
You are called names or insulted				
Very often	3	2	2	1
Fairly often	4	3	2	1
Once in a while	28	26	24	16
Never	64	69	72	81

Among different national origin groups, Cubans are the least likely to report experiences of unfair treatment, while Central Americans, particularly Salvadorans are more likely than other groups. (Table 4.12)

- For example, more than six in ten Central Americans (63%), and Salvadorans (64%) in particular, report that at least once in a while they are treated with less respect than other people because of their race or ethnicity compared to fewer than half of all other country of origin groups, and many fewer Cubans (27%).

Perceived Reasons for Discrimination

Overall, about six in ten (62%) Latinos report that they or someone close to them has been discriminated against, not been promoted or hired for a job, or that they have experienced some subtler form of unfair treatment because of their race or ethnicity including being insulted or called names, treated with less respect at least once in a while, and receiving poorer service than others. When asked to explain why they believe they were treated this way, Latinos were divided among those who feel it was due to their physical appearance, the language they speak, or both.

- Among those Latinos who report having experienced discrimination or unfair treatment, a quarter (24%) say the main reason for their experience was their physical appearance alone, while 35% say it was because of the language they speak, and 20% cite both their appearance and the language they speak.

Native and foreign-born Latinos differ in their explanations as to why they were discriminated against or treated unfairly. Foreign-born Latinos are more likely to report language alone is the main reason for the discrimination they have experienced, whereas native-born Latinos are more likely to attribute it to their physical appearance. Among foreign-born Latinos, age of immigration to the United States also influences the reasons named. Similar differences are also evident among Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish, those who are bilingual, and those who speak English predominantly. (Table 4.13)

- Among those reporting being discriminated against or treated unfairly, about four in ten (43%) native-born Latinos report physical appearance alone as the main reason they were discriminated against compared to 13% of foreign-born Latinos. In contrast, almost half (46%) of foreign-born Latinos report that language alone is the basis for the discrimination they experienced compared to about one in seven (14%) native-born Latinos.

- Latinos who immigrated to the United States when they were 10 years old or younger are more likely than Latinos who arrived later in life to say they have been discriminated against mainly due to their physical appearance (36% vs. 10%) and less likely to say it was mainly due to the language that they speak (21% vs. 50%).

- Similarly, English-dominant Latinos cite physical appearance as the main reason for their experiences of discrimination or unfair treatment, while Spanish-dominant Latinos believe it is because of the language they speak. Bilingual respondents are divided as to what they think is the main reason for their experiences of discrimination or unfair treatment.

Table 4.12: Frequency of Reported Experiences with Discrimination or Unfair Treatment, by Country of Origin

In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you because of your racial or ethnic background? Would you say very often, fairly often, once in a while, or never?

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Treated with less respect than other people									
Very often	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%	4%	5%
Fairly often	2	7	4	8	3	9	3	3	3
Once in a while	40	34	18	49	32	48	27	33	34
Never	53	53	73	37	58	36	60	60	57
Receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores									
Very often	4	4	5	7	4	4	7	2	3
Fairly often	4	6	2	9	4	12	4	4	6
Once in a while	34	34	14	41	30	39	33	35	31
Never	59	57	76	42	63	43	54	59	60
You are called names or insulted									
Very often	1	2	3	3	2	4	5	1	7
Fairly often	3	4	2	3	*	3	4	1	4
Once in a while	25	26	13	33	20	32	23	16	20
Never	70	68	82	62	77	62	67	82	69

Table 4.13: Reported Reasons for Discrimination and Unfair Treatment against Latinos Among Those who Reported Such Experiences, by Total Latinos, Foreign/Native-Born Latinos and by Primary Language Among Latinos

Thinking in general about when you have been treated unfairly or discriminated against, which of the following explains why you think you were treated unfairly. Was it MAINLY because of your...

				Primary Language		
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
Physical appearance	24%	13%	43%	9%	30%	47%
The language you speak	35	46	14	54	26	10
Both your appearance and the language you speak	20	21	17	19	24	15
All other reasons	6	4	11	2	5	12
None	11	11	11	12	11	9

Latinos with higher incomes and levels of education are more likely to report physical appearance as the main reason why they have experienced discrimination or unfair treatment, while those with a lower level of education and income are more likely to cite the language they speak. (Table 4.14)

- For example, about one in seven (15%) Latinos with less than a high school diploma reports physical appearance as the main reason why they think they were discriminated against or treated unfairly compared to three in ten (29%) Latino high school graduates. The percentage reporting physical appearance as the main reason for discrimination is even higher among those who have had some college education (37%) or who are college graduates (33%).

- Similarly, 21% of Latinos earning less than $30,000 a year and 27% of Latinos earning $30,000 to less than $50,000 a year report physical appearance as the main reason for discrimination against Latinos, compared to 36% of Latinos with an annual household income of $50,000 or more.

Table 4.14: Reported Reasons for Discrimination and Unfair Treatment against Latinos Among those who Reported Such Experiences, by Total Latinos, Income and Education Among Latinos

Thinking in general about when you have been treated unfairly or discriminated against, which of the following explains why you think you were treated unfairly. Was it MAINLY because of your...

		Income			Education			
	Total Latinos	Less than $30,000	$30,000 to less than $50,000	$50,000+	Less than high school	High school graduate	Some college	College graduate
Physical appearance	24%	21%	27%	36%	15%	29%	37%	33%
The language you speak	35	43	28	18	45	30	23	22
Both your appearance and the language you speak	20	17	20	23	18	21	20	22
All other reasons	6	5	10	8	3	6	9	10
None	11	10	10	10	13	9	8	11

Section 5: Financial And Economic Experiences

Overall, Latinos report a weaker financial situation than do whites. They report having lower household incomes; they are less likely to own the home they live in; and they are more likely to report having had financial difficulties in the past year. Latinos are also less likely than whites to use traditional financial resources such as bank accounts and credit cards. Furthermore, Latinos report having more severe financial hardships than whites in the same income bracket. Economically, Latinos are much more similar to African Americans, who report having comparable incomes and financial difficulties.

This does not mean that all Latinos are struggling financially. Latinos who were born in the United States and those who speak English or are bilingual are much more likely to report having higher household incomes and are less likely to report experiencing financial hardships than those Latinos who were born outside of the United States or who primarily speak Spanish.

Although Latinos report being somewhat ambivalent about their current financial situation, they tend to be more optimistic than whites or African Americans. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of Latinos, regardless of their place of birth or primary language, are confident that Latino children growing up in the United States will have better jobs and make more money then they do.

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HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND OCCUPATION

Latinos and African Americans report having similar household incomes, which tend to be lower than household incomes reported by whites.

- Half of all Latinos report having an annual household income under $30,000, 23% report having a household income between $30,000 and below $50,000, 17% report making over $50,000, and just over one in ten (11%) did not know their annual household income.

Although they still report having a lower household income than whites, native-born Latinos tend to have a higher household income than Latinos who are foreign born. Similarly, Latinos who speak English primarily or who are bilingual report having a higher household income than Latinos who primarily speak Spanish, regardless of the length of time Spanish speakers have been in the United States. (Table 5.1)

- About two-thirds of Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish report making less than $30,000 regardless of whether they were born in the United States (68% reported making less than $30,000) and regardless of whether they have been in the United States fewer than 12 years (65%) or if they have been in the United States for over 25 years (64%).

Around half (51%) of all employed Latinos report they are blue-collar workers. However, this is much more likely to be the case for foreign-born (65%) and Spanish-speaking (74%) Latinos.

- Foreign-born Latinos are more likely than native-born Latinos to report having blue collar jobs (65% vs. 28%, respectively) and Latinos who speak primarily Spanish are over twice as likely to report being blue-collar workers than Latinos who speak primarily English or who are bilingual. (Table 5.1)

- Nearly three in ten (28%) employed native-born Latinos report having blue-collar jobs, which is very similar to what is reported by whites (30%) and African Americans (24%).

USE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Use of financial resources such as bank accounts and credit cards is not as widespread among Latinos as it is among whites. African Americans are slightly more likely to have an account with a bank than Latinos; however, they tend to be equally as likely as Latinos to use credit cards.

- About three fourths (76%) of African Americans and two-thirds (65%) of Latinos say they have a bank account, while virtually all whites (95%) have an account with a bank.

- Just over half of African Americans (54%) and Latinos (51%) report they have a credit card, compared to nearly eight in ten (77%) whites.

Not surprisingly, as household income increases, so does the likelihood that Latinos will have credit cards and bank accounts. Similarly, those who primarily speak English or are bilingual are more likely to have bank accounts and credit cards than Latinos who primarily speak Spanish. (Table 5.2)

- In fact, although whites with household incomes under $50,000 report using traditional financial resources significantly more than Latinos of equivalent household incomes, the vast majority of whites and Latinos who have an annual income above $50,000 have credit cards and an account with a bank.

Native-born Latinos are more likely than foreign-born Latinos to have credit cards and an account with a bank. However, Latinos with comparable household incomes tend to use credit cards at the same rate, regardless of where they were born. (Table 5.2)

- Furthermore, the longer foreign-born Latinos (excluding those born on the island of Puerto Rico) who make less than $30,000 are in the United States, the more likely they are to have a bank account. Of those who have been in the United States for less than 13 years, four in ten (40%) say they have a bank account, compared to nearly six in ten (57%) Latinos who have been here between 13 and 24 years and seven in ten (70%) Latinos who have been in the United States over 25 years.

There are some differences in the use of financial resources by the country in which Latinos or their parents or ancestors were born. Cubans are more likely to report having credit cards and bank accounts than other Latinos.

- Seven in ten (71%) Cubans report having credit cards, compared to less than half (47%) of Mexicans, 55% of Salvadorans, 56% of Puerto Ricans, and 58% of Dominicans.

- Nearly eight in ten Cubans (79%) and Colombians (79%) say they have an account with a bank, compared to six in ten (60%) Mexicans, 64% of Dominicans, and 67% of Salvadorans.

Table 5.1: Reported Household Income and Occupation, by Race/Ethnicity and Among Latinos, by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

Household Income and Occupation

						Among Latinos		
	Latinos	Whites	African Americans	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
HOUSEHOLD INCOME								
Less than $30,000	50%	29%	44%	57%	37%	65%	37%	35%
$30,000 – < $50,000	23	27	30	20	28	16	31	29
$50,000 +	17	42	22	11	27	4	26	29
Don't Know	11	3	4	12	8	15	6	7
OCCUPATION								
White Collar	45	66	73	31	69	22	60	65
Blue Collar	51	30	24	65	28	74	35	31
Other	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3

Table 5.2: Reported Use of Credit Cards and Bank Accounts, by Race/Ethnicity and Among Latinos, by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

Credit Cards and Bank Accounts

						Among Latinos		
	Latinos	Whites	African Americans	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
HAVE A CREDIT CARD								
Total	**51%**	**77%**	**54%**	**47%**	**58%**	**40%**	**64%**	**58%**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	43	63	NA	43	44	40	54	42
$30,000 – < $50,000	58	78	NA	59	56	56	64	53
$50,000 +	84	88	NA	84	85	NA	88	86
HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH A BANK								
Total	**65**	**95**	**76**	**58**	**77**	**50**	**77**	**79**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	54	91	NA	51	61	47	66	62
$30,000 – < $50,000	79	93	NA	76	82	72	82	83
$50,000 +	96	99	NA	92	98	NA	97	98

Note: Data is not available for subgroups with sample sizes under 100 respondents.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Four in ten Latinos (40%) and African Americans (41%) report owning the home they live in compared to seven in ten whites. Furthermore, fewer Latinos report owning homes than whites at various household incomes. Native-born Latinos are more likely than foreign-born Latinos to report owning the home they live in, especially in high and low-income brackets. (Table 5.3)

- Over half (52%) of native-born Latinos report owning the home they live in, compared to about one-third (34%) of foreign-born Latinos.

Cubans (56%) report owning the home they live in more often than other groups of Latinos.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS

Similar proportions of Latinos and African Americans report having had financial difficulties such as paying their rent or mortgage, saving money for the future, or losing their job or getting laid off in the past year, while whites tend to report having had fewer of these same difficulties.

- Nearly three in ten (28%) Latinos have had problems paying their rent or mortgage in the past year, which is similar to their African American counterparts (30%), but significantly fewer whites (13%) report having had the same problem.

- Three in ten (30%) Latinos report being laid off or having lost their job in the past year, which is similar to what is reported by African Americans (32%), but is twice as many as whites (15%) who report the same.

- When asked if they have been able to save money for the future, one-third (33%) of Latinos report they have been able to save. A similar proportion of African Americans (39%) reported the same thing, but over half (51%) of whites said they were able to save.

Not surprisingly, as income increases fewer Latinos report having had financial difficulties and they tend to look much more like whites with equivalent household incomes. (Table 5.4)

- For example, significantly more Latinos than whites who make under $30,000 per year report having been laid off or lost their job in the past year (37% vs. 17%). However, a similar proportion of Latinos and whites with annual household incomes over $50,000 have lost their job or have been laid off in the past year (16% and 13%, respectively).

Also, native-born Latinos tend to report having had financial difficulties less often than their foreign-born counterparts and similarly those Latinos that speak English primarily or are bilingual report having had fewer financial difficulties than Latinos who speak Spanish primarily. (Table 5.4)

- Significantly more foreign-born than native-born Latinos report having lost their job or having been laid off in the past year (34% vs. 24%, respectively) or having had problems paying their rent or mortgage (31% vs. 25%).

- Slightly more foreign-born (39%) than native-born (31%) Latinos who have an annual household income under $30,000 report losing their job in the past year. However, the longer foreign-born Latinos in this income bracket are in the United States, the less likely they are to report having lost their job in the past year.

Significantly more foreign-born Latinos report having had difficulties saving money for the future compared to Latinos who were born in the United States. In addition, almost one-half (47%) of Latinos who were born outside of the United States report that they send money back to their country of origin. (Table 5.4)

- About three in ten (27%) foreign-born and 44% of native-born Latinos report having been able to save money for the future.

- Of the Latinos who report sending money back to their native country:
    - over seven in ten (71%) say they have not been able to save money for the future in the past year;
    - six in ten come from a household with an annual income of less than $30,000
    - and, almost one-third (32%) report having had problems paying their rent or mortgage in the past year.

Latinos' experience with financial hardships differs slightly among country of origins groups. Salvadorans tend to report having more financial difficulties than Puerto Ricans and Cubans. It should be noted, however, that Salvadorans also report having a lower household income than Puerto Ricans and Cubans.

- Four in ten (40%) Salvadorans report having problems paying their rent or mortgage in the past year, compared to about one quarter of Puerto Ricans (25%), Mexicans (26%), and Cubans (29%).

- Nearly four in ten (39%) Salvadorans report getting laid off or losing their job in the past year, compared to 24% of Puerto Ricans.

- About one in four (26%) Salvadorans say they were able to save money for the future in the past year, compared to about four in ten Puerto Ricans (40%) and Cubans (42%) who report being able to save.
- The majority (56%) of Salvadorans report having an annual household income under $30,000, while four in ten Puerto Ricans (40%) and Cubans (40%) report having the same household income.

Table 5.3: Reported Homeownership, by Race/Ethnicity and Among Latinos, by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

Homeownership

						Among Latinos		
	Latinos	**Whites**	**African Americans**	**Foreign-Born Latinos**	**Native-Born Latinos**	**Spanish-Dominant**	**Bilingual**	**English-Dominant**
OWN HOME								
Total	**40%**	**70%**	**41%**	**34%**	**52%**	**30%**	**48%**	**50%**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	28	51	NA	25	36	26	29	34
$30,000 - < $50,000	47	70	NA	46	48	46	53	41
$50,000 +	71	82	NA	65	74	57	68	77

Note: Data is not available for subgroups with sample sizes under 100 respondents.

Table 5.4: Reported Financial Hardships, by Race/Ethnicity and Among Latinos by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that has happened to you or your immediate family during the past year.

						Among Latinos		
	Latinos	**Whites**	**African Americans**	**Foreign-Born Latinos**	**Native-Born Latinos**	**Spanish-Dominant**	**Bilingual**	**English-Dominant**
Problems paying rent or mortgage								
Total	**28%**	**13%**	**30%**	**31%**	**25%**	**33%**	**23%**	**25%**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	37	22	NA	36	38	37	33	40
$30,000 - < $50,000	23	14	NA	21	25	24	21	24
$50,000 +	12	6	NA	17	9	NA	12	9
Able to save money for the future								
Total	**33**	**51**	**39**	**27**	**44**	**22**	**42**	**45**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	22	31	NA	19	30	18	29	29
$30,000 - < $50,000	37	45	NA	32	43	27	40	44
$50,000 +	62	66	NA	61	63	NA	63	64
Lost your job or been laid off								
Total	**30**	**15**	**32**	**34**	**24**	**36**	**26**	**24**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	37	17	NA	39	31	40	32	32
$30,000 - < $50,000	27	20	NA	28	25	28	29	22
$50,000 +	16	13	NA	18	15	NA	16	16

Note: Data is not available for subgroups with sample sizes under 100 respondents.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

While Latinos' outlook on their financial situation is mixed, they seem to be at least somewhat more optimistic about their personal financial situation than whites and African Americans, even though Latinos report having a lower household income and having faced more severe financial hardships in the past year than whites. Furthermore, as Latino's household income increases so does their optimism.

- Almost three in ten (28%) Latinos report their financial situation has improved in the past year, 23% report it has gotten worse, and half (50%) report it has stayed the same.
- Significantly more Latinos than whites at equivalent income levels said their situation has gotten better. (Table 5.5)

Native-born Latinos are slightly more positive about their personal financial situation than Latinos born outside of the United States. (Table 5.5)

- A quarter of foreign-born (25%) and about a third of native-born (32%) Latinos report their personal situation has gotten better in the past year, about two in ten (23% and 22%, respectively) report it has gotten worse, and about half (52% and 46%, respectively) report it has stayed the same.
- When asked about their personal financial situation, the percentage of foreign-born and native-born Latinos who felt their financial situation improved in the past year was similar for those who have an annual household income of less than $30,000 (20% and 24%, respectively), of $30,000 to $50,000 (32% and 37%), and over $50,000 (48% and 41%).

Table 5.5: Outlook on Personal Financial Situation, by Race/Ethnicityand Among Latinos by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

In the past year, has your personal financial situation gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

						Among Latinos		
	Latinos	Whites	African Americans	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
BETTER								
Total	**28%**	**21%**	**17%**	**25%**	**32%**	**21%**	**34%**	**32%**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	21	14	NA	20	24	17	28	26
$30,000 – < $50,000	34	23	NA	32	37	32	31	40
$50,000 +	44	26	NA	48	41	NA	50	37
WORSE								
Total	**23**	**26**	**25**	**23**	**22**	**25**	**20**	**21**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	28	35	NA	27	30	28	26	27
$30,000 – < $50,000	18	32	NA	20	15	23	17	14
$50,000 +	16	19	NA	15	16	NA	14	17
STAYED THE SAME								
Total	**50**	**53**	**58**	**52**	**46**	**54**	**46**	**46**
By Household Income								
Less than $30,000	51	52	NA	54	46	54	46	47
$30,000 – < $50,000	48	45	NA	48	47	44	52	46
$50,000 +	40	54	NA	36	43	NA	35	46

Note: Data is not available for subgroups with sample sizes under 100 respondents

Latinos who speak Spanish predominately tend to be more neutral about their financial situation than Latinos who speak English primarily or who are bilingual. (Table 5.5)

- About two-thirds of Latinos who primarily speak English (32%) or who are bilingual (34%) feel their financial situation in the past year has gotten better, compared to two in ten (21%) Latinos who primarily speak Spanish.

Although Latinos are somewhat ambivalent about their own financial situation, they are optimistic about the financial futures of Latino children growing up in the United States today. (Table 5.6)

- The majority (76%) of Latinos are confident that Latino children growing up in the United States today will have better jobs and will make more money than they do.

Although native-born Latinos are confident in the economic future of young Latinos being raised in the United States today, significantly more foreign-born Latinos are very confident of this point, especially in higher income brackets. (Table 5.6)

- Significantly more foreign-born than native-born Latinos feel 'very confident' Latino children growing up in the United States today will have better jobs and a better education than they will (46% and 34%, respectively).

Table 5.6: Latinos' Outlook on the Economic Future of Latino Children in the United States, by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

How confident are you that Latino children growing up now in the United States will have better jobs and make more money than you?

				Among Latinos		
	Total Latinos	**Foreign-Born Latinos**	**Native-Born Latinos**	**Spanish-Dominant**	**Bilingual**	**English-Dominant**
VERY CONFIDENT						
Total	**41%**	**46%**	**34%**	**46%**	**42%**	**31%**
By Household Income						
Less than $30,000	43	45	37	44	44	36
$30,000 - < $50,000	42	51	32	53	45	28
$50,000 +	33	41	29	NA	39	25
SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT						
Total	**35**	**30**	**44**	**28**	**38**	**44**
By Household Income						
Less than $30,000	34	30	46	30	36	46
$30,000 - < $50,000	35	27	45	22	39	43
$50,000 +	40	36	42	NA	38	42
NOT TOO CONFIDENT						
Total	**18**	**19**	**16**	**20**	**16**	**19**
By Household Income						
Less than $30,000	18	20	14	19	19	13
$30,000 - < $50,000	18	18	18	20	12	23
$50,000 +	20	19	21	NA	16	24
NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT						
Total	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**4**
By Household Income						
Less than $30,000	4	4	4	5	1	4
$30,000 - < $50,000	4	4	5	5	4	4
$50,000 +	5	4	5	NA	6	5

Note: Data is not available for subgroups with sample sizes under 100 respondents.

Section 6: Health Care Experiences

As has been documented before, Latinos are more likely than whites or African Americans to report being without health insurance. In fact, almost three in four Latino adults are either themselves without health insurance or personally know someone who does not have insurance coverage.

However, experience with being uninsured differs substantially among Latinos, with those who are foreign born, or Spanish dominant more likely to report being uninsured than their counterparts. Latinos who trace their roots to Mexico or El Salvador or other Central or South American countries are more likely to say they are uninsured than are those from Puerto Rico, Cuba or the Dominican Republic.

A substantial minority of Latinos report additional health care challenges such as problems paying medical bills, delaying seeking care because of costs or getting needed health care services. Furthermore, some Latinos report having problems communicating with health care providers due to language barriers or having difficultly getting care due to their race and ethnic background. Not surprisingly, these experiences are more common among those who are Spanish dominant and among those who were born outside the United States.

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HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCES

The vast majority of Latinos either lacks health insurance themselves or knows somebody who does. (Chart 6.1)

- Over one-third of Latino adults report that they do not have health insurance. In fact, Latinos (35%) are much more likely to report being uninsured than whites (14%) or African Americans (21%).

- Almost six in ten (59%) Latinos who have health insurance say that they personally know someone who doesn't have health insurance (38% of all Latinos). Together, 73% of Latinos are either uninsured themselves or know someone who is uninsured, compared to 63% of whites and 64% of African Americans.

- Two-thirds of Latinos who report not having health insurance are employed (63%). Another 20% say they are homemakers or stay-at-home parents, 12% say they are currently unemployed, 3% say they are retired, and 3% are students.

Latinos who are foreign born, Spanish dominant, or have lower incomes are more likely to report being uninsured. Latinos who are themselves from or whose families are from Mexico, El Salvador, or Central or South America are more likely to say they are uninsured than are those from Puerto Rico, Cuba or the Dominican Republic. (Tables 6.1 and 6.2)

- For example, foreign-born Latinos (42%) are more likely to report being uninsured than Latinos born in the United States (25%), as are those who are Spanish dominant (47%) versus those who are English dominant (26%).

- Considerably more Latinos with incomes less than $30,000 per year (45%) report having no health insurance compared to those with incomes of more than $50,000 per year (11%).

- Health insurance status differs substantially based on country of origin. For example, Mexicans (39%) and Salvadorans (41%) are considerably more likely to report being uninsured than are Puerto Ricans (18%), Cubans (20%), or Dominicans (29%).

A substantial minority of Latinos report additional health care challenges such as problems paying medical bills, or problems delaying or getting health care they believe they need. (Table 6.3)

- About one in five (22%) Latinos report that they have had problems paying medical bills this past year, and of this group about half (48%) said those bills had a major impact on themselves or their family.

- One in five (20%) Latinos said that they or another member of their household postponed seeking medical care during the year, with 44% of this group saying the person never got the care they needed.

- About one in seven (15%) Latinos said that they or another member of their household needed medical care but did not get it during the past year, with almost seven in ten of this group saying the medical condition they needed care for but did not get was very (30%) or somewhat (38%) serious.

- Together, 35% of Latinos say they or a member of their household experienced at least one of these three problems.

- Latinos who are uninsured are more likely than Latinos who are insured to report having problems paying their medical bills (27% vs.19%, respectively) and having postponed seeking health care (27% vs.16%).

- Whites were about as likely as Latinos to report experiencing these problems, while African Americans were more likely to report experiencing them.

Chart 6.1

Reported Experiences with Health Insurance Coverage

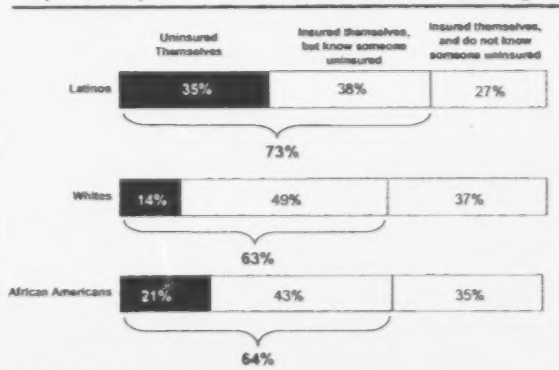

Table 6.1: Latinos Reported Health Insurance Coverage, by Foreign/Native-Born, Primary Language and Income

Are you, yourself now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have any health insurance at this time?

				Primary Language			Income		
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant	Less than $30,000	$30,000 to less than $50,000	$50,000+
Yes, covered	64%	58%	75%	53%	75%	74%	55%	71%	89%
No, not covered	35	42	25	47	25	26	45	29	11

Table 6.2: Latinos Reported Health Insurance Coverage, by Country of Origin

Are you, yourself now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have any health insurance at this time?

	Country of Origin								
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Yes, covered	60%	82%	80%	57%	64%	59%	71%	70%	72%
No, not covered	39	18	20	43	36	41	29	30	28

Table 6.3: Reported Problems with Getting, Accessing and Paying for Health Care Services, by Race/Ethnicity

Problems paying for medical bills, not getting needed medical attention, or ever put off or postponed seeking health care you felt you needed but you could not afford in the past year

	Latinos	Whites	African Americans
Had problems paying medical bills			
Yes	22%	20%	37%
You or another family member in household needed medical care but did not get it			
Yes	15	10	24
You or someone else in your household put off or postponed seeking medical care you felt you needed but you could not afford			
Yes	20	26	34
Answered yes to at least one of the above problems with healthcare	35	35	48

Some Latinos also report having problems communicating with health care providers due to language barriers or having difficultly getting care due to their race and ethnic background. Not surprisingly, these experiences are more common among those who are Spanish dominant and among those who were born outside the United States. (Tables 6.4 and 6.5)

- Almost three in ten Latinos say they have had a problem communicating with health providers – including 12% who say this has been a major problem and 17% who say minor problem over the past year.

- Almost two in ten Latinos say they have had difficultly getting care because of their race or ethnic background – including 7% who say this has been a major problem and 11% who say a minor problem over the past year.

- Perhaps not surprisingly, half of those who are Spanish dominant report having had difficulties communicating with providers due to language barriers (compared to 8% of those who are English dominant), and about four in ten of those born outside the United States also report having had these experiences. These groups are also more likely than their counterparts to report having difficulties getting care.

- Puerto Ricans were less likely than those from other backgrounds to report experiencing these types of health care challenges.

LATINOS' VIEWS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE ISSUES FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS

When asked in an open-ended question to name their top two health care issues for the government to address, about one third of Latinos (34%) cited access to health insurance and health care as a top issue. About one-fifth named issues related to seniors or the Medicare program (22%) and 2% named the related issue of prescription drug coverage for the elderly. About a fifth named diseases (18%), including 10% who named HIV/AIDS as a top issue. Social issues related to health such as Social Security, the environment, and childcare were named by 12% of Latinos, while 9% said health care costs should be a top health care concern of government. (Chart 6A)

Perhaps reflecting their own personal experiences, Latino women were even more likely to name access to health insurance as a top issue than Latino men (38% versus 29%, respectively).

Chart 6A

Latinos' Top Two Health Care Issues For the Government To Address

When asked to name in an open ended question their top two health care issues for the government to address, the percent who named each

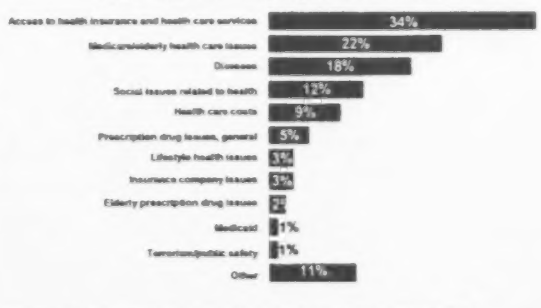

Table 6.4: Latinos Reported Difficulties Communicating With Providers and Getting Health Care, by Foreign/Native-Born and by Primary Language

Please tell me if each of these has been a major problem for you, a minor problem for you, or not a problem during the last 12 months? How about ...

				Primary Language		
	Total Latinos	Foreign-Born Latinos	Native-Born Latinos	Spanish-Dominant	Bilingual	English-Dominant
Difficulty communicating with doctors or other health care providers because of language barriers						
Problem (Net)	**29%**	**42%**	**8%**	**49%**	**16%**	**8%**
Major problem	12	17	3	21	5	3
Minor problem	17	25	5	28	11	5
Not a problem	70	58	91	50	83	92
Having difficulty getting care because of your race or ethnic background						
Problem (Net)	**18%**	**24%**	**9%**	**26%**	**16%**	**8%**
Major problem	7	10	2	11	5	2
Minor problem	11	14	7	15	11	6
Not a problem	81	76	90	74	84	91

Table 6.5: Latinos Reported Difficulties Communicating With Providers and Getting Health Care, by Country of Origin

Please tell me if each of these has been a major problem for you, a minor problem for you, or not a problem during the last 12 months? How about ...

				Country of Origin					
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Total Central American	Total South American	Salvadoran	Dominican	Colombian	All Other
Difficulty communicating with doctors or other health care providers because of language barriers									
Problem (Net)	**31%**	**15%**	**26%**	**42%**	**32%**	**42%**	**38%**	**35%**	**12%**
Major problem	13	3	9	14	16	13	15	20	4
Minor problem	18	12	17	28	16	29	23	15	8
Not a problem	68	85	73	58	68	57	60	64	87
Having difficulty getting care because of your race or ethnic background									
Problem (Net)	**19%**	**13%**	**16%**	**24%**	**16%**	**25%**	**21%**	**18%**	**9%**
Major problem	7	5	6	12	8	10	7	10	2
Minor problem	12	8	10	12	8	15	14	8	7
Not a problem	80	87	83	75	83	75	76	81	89

METHODOLOGY

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The Pew Hispanic Center/Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation *2002 National Survey of Latinos* was conducted by telephone between April 4 and June 11, 2002 among a nationally representative sample of 4,213 adults, 18 years and older, who were selected at random. Representatives of the Pew Hispanic Center and The Kaiser Family Foundation worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results. International Communications Research of Media, PA conducted the fieldwork in either English or Spanish, based on the respondent's preference.

The sample design employed a highly stratified disproportionate RDD sample of the 48 contiguous states, including oversamples for Salvadorans, Dominicans, Colombians, and Cubans. The results are weighted to represent the actual distribution of adults throughout the United States. The Latino sample in particular was weighted to reflect the actual distribution among Latino adults of country of origin, age, sex, and region.

Of those who were interviewed, 2,929 identified themselves as being of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent (based on the question "Are you, yourself of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, Caribbean or some other Latin background?") and throughout this report they will be referred to interchangeably as either "Latinos" or "Hispanics." In addition, interviews were conducted with 1008 non-Hispanic whites and 171 non-Hispanic African Americans. The margin of sampling error is +/- 2.41 percentage points for Latinos overall, +/- 3.32 percentage points for whites, and +/- 9.9 percentage points for African Americans. The report also highlights results for various subgroups of Latinos. Please see the Introduction of the Report for definitions of these key groups. The sample size and margin of sampling error for these groups are shown in the adjacent table.

Unweighted Number of Respondents and Margin of Sampling Error for Latino Sub-groups

	Unweighted Number of Respondents (n)	Margin of Sampling Error
Total Latinos	2929	+/-2.41 percentage points
Foreign/Native-Born		
Foreign-Born Latinos	2014	2.99
Native-Born Latinos	915	4.06
Generation		
1st Generation	2014	2.99
2nd Generation	526	5.58
3rd Generation and Higher	362	5.93
Primary Language		
English-Dominant	627	4.82
Bilingual	933	4.40
Spanish-Dominant	1309	3.59
Country or Place of Origin		
Mexico	1047	3.31
Puerto Rico	317	6.65
Cuba	343	6.38
Central America (Total)	341	8.08
South America (Total)	394	7.95
Dominican Republic	235	7.30
El Salvador	204	10.11
Colombia	214	10.45
All Other	252	9.18

Note that sampling error may be larger for other subgroups and that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

"Don't know" responses that account for fewer than 5% of responses are not shown in the tables in this report but can be found in the toplines. Table percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Copies of this report #3300 or copies of the survey toplines #3301 are available online at www.kff.org and www.pewhispanic.org or by calling the Foundation's publications request line at 1-800-656-4533.

Results from the National Survey of Latinos that relate to politics and elections were released in October, 2002 under the title National Survey of Latinos: The Latino Electorate. The summary/chartpack and toplines for this previously released section of the survey are available online at www.kff.org and www.pewhispanic.org or by calling the Foundation's publications request line at 1-800-656-4533 (summary/chartpack: publication #3265, toplines: publication #3266).

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